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INTERNATIONAL

'Perestroika has not changed the military'

Soviet threat remains: Carlucci

ISTANBUL, Aug 6, (Agencies): US Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci warned yesterday that the Soviet Union's military threat is as great as ever, despite the reforms of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Carlucci, en route home from his unprecedented tour of Soviet military establishments, said NATO defence should be kept at the highest level possible.

"We see no change whatsoever in the resources that are going into the Soviet military establishment," he told reporters during a visit to NATO front-line ally Turkey.

While Gorbachev's reform of "perestroika" (restructuring) has brought about some very far-reaching changes... we have not seen the effects of perestroika in the military," he said, adding he was still waiting to see "a tangible change in force structure," in the Soviet Union.

Reforms

Gorbachev's twin reform policies -- glasnost, or "openness," and perestroika -- won world attention for allowing unprecedented internal public debate on Soviet government policy while professing an emphasis away from the arms race and toward non-military

economic development.

But Western critics argue the reforms are merely modernisations that will leave intact the core of Moscow's ideology.

Earlier this week, Carlucci, as a guest of the Soviet military, saw some of their once well-guarded secrets.

The US defence chief watched a high-technology battlefield exercise, toured a major naval base, and sat at the controls of the latest Soviet long-range bomber aircraft.

"It's true that the Soviets are more open in showing us their equipment and their exercises," he told journalists in Istanbul.

But he warned that NATO must continue to offer effective deterrence against Soviet attack.

"(NATO's) modernisation programme is ongoing," he said.

Nuclear-capable artillery and aircraft, and a successor to the Lance short-range nuclear missile were all being developed, he added.

Soviet officials were disturbed at the 23 NATO bases on Turkish soil, Carlucci told journalists, adding he was told the bases posed no threat to Moscow.

"I emphasised that we regard the Soviet Union as offensive in

character," he added.

Carlucci's statements followed his meetings with Turkish President Kenan Evren yesterday, and with Premier Turgut Ozal, Defence Minister Ercan Vuralhan and Turkish Chief of Staff General Nuret Torumay on Thursday.

While focussing on his Soviet visit, their talks also covered bilateral and NATO defence issues, including the modernisation of Turkish conventional forces, Carlucci said.

Prospects

Turkey's 800,000 troops, the largest single national commitment to NATO outside the United States, patrol the Western alliance's longest border with the Soviet Union, using often vintage equipment dating to the Korean War.

Turkey has committed itself to modernising its conventional forces and is currently awaiting US congressional approval of a new military aid package and for gifts of surplus US ships and equipment.

But Turkey has resisted modernising its nuclear defences as it pursues increased economic and political links with Moscow. Carlucci also discussed with

Turkish officials the pace of modernising US intelligence bases in Turkey, sources close to the talks said.

But he did not raise prospects of increasing America's military presence on Turkish soil, despite neighbouring Greece's refusal so far to renew its military bases agreement with the United States, the sources added.

"He's taken a soft approach," said a source who requested anonymity. "The emphasis has been on dialogue between two close allies."

Carlucci described his visit to Turkey directly following his Soviet tour as "very important," and praised the staunch alliance between Washington and Ankara.

Cuts

In Washington, the US Senate opened debate on a \$282.6-billion defence bill yesterday amid recriminations over President Reagan's veto of companion legislation.

Reagan vetoed a \$299.5-billion defence authorisation bill on Wednesday, saying the cuts it envisaged in the Star Wars missile defence programme in particular granted "unilateral concessions" to the Soviet Union.

Israel worried over Arab arms buildup

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug 6, (AP): The armies of Arab countries are closing their technological gap with Israel, but the Jewish state still maintains a qualitative edge over its main enemies, Israel's Air Force commander said today.

Maj. Gen. Avihu Bin-Nun said Israel was worried about the sales of sophisticated Western, particularly American-made weapons to Arab countries. He cited the planned sale of US-made F-18 airplanes and Maverick air-to-surface missiles to Kuwait.

The supply of F-18 for the Kuwaiatis is a jump ahead with the technology and weapons systems they have got today," Bin-Nun said on Israel Radio.

Concerned

"I believe the danger of Kuwaiatis transferring the F-18s... to any Arab country that will be in war with Israel still exists," in spite of the reported Kuwaiati assurances to the contrary, he said.

Israel is also concerned about the recent \$30-billion British

arms sale to Saudi Arabia, which has supported Arab states in all their wars against Israel.

Bin-Nun said that every sale of sophisticated Western weaponry to the Arab countries "is another technological advantage that the Arab nations are getting. They're closing the technological gap that gives us the qualitative edge we need to offset the quantities."

Another item of concern, Bin-Nun said, was the increased number of surface-to-surface missiles in the region.

Manpower

"Most of the countries around us are looking into it or buying or spending money on surface-to-surface missiles," he said. "We hear the Chinese are visiting the areas and are trying to sell their M-9" surface-to-surface missiles.

Egypt and Iraq, Bin-Nun said, are developing such missiles in co-operation with some South American countries.

Syria is reportedly buying the Chinese M-9s and, according to Israeli officials, is also developing chemical warheads.

Dukakis raps Bush on foreign policy

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif., Aug 6, (Reuter): At least one person was killed and up to 40 others were injured today, when a suburban train smashed into a buffer at the end of a track in the crowded Gare de l'Est station, railroad company officials said.

Four people

at least were trapped inside the twisted front carriage of the train at the Paris station, which was packed with tourists. Five other people who were pulled from the wagons were taken to a local hospital with serious injuries.

One person

at least was killed and up to 40 travellers were injured in all, authorities said. Officials said the brake system appeared to have failed.

Firefighters

and rescue teams

accident

between the two men

contaminated

into a second day.

Dukakis

buoyed by a new poll

showing

him ahead of Bush

throughout

the country,

jumped

to the attack when asked about Bush's assertions he was weak on defence and foreign policy.

"Anybody

who sits there and

does nothing

while we trade arms

with the Ayatollah

(Khomeini of Iran),

and says he didn't know

that (Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio) Noriega was running drugs... doesn't have what it takes to lead this country when it comes to foreign policy," Dukakis said.

He was talking about allegations

that Bush attended National Security Council briefings

we believed

to be French.

One dies as train crashes in Paris

PARIS, Aug 6, (UPI): At least one person was killed and up to 40 others were injured today, when a suburban train smashed into a buffer at the end of a track in the crowded Gare de l'Est station, railroad company officials said.

The amendment approved today calls for local elections nationwide on Nov 13 and says local elections in the future can be moved ahead by as much as a year.

Currently the law states that a referendum cannot be held earlier than 120 days after it is called for by parliament. But Motherland officials said next week the parliament will pass legislation reducing the waiting period to 45 days.

That will mean that a referendum asking for a "yes" or "no" to early municipal polls could be held in late September.

Political analysts say Ozal wanted early polls partly because he does not want to give the main opposition Social Democrats sufficient time to organise under their new leadership.

The train was arriving from Chateau-Thierry, 50 miles (80 km) northeast of Paris, when it slammed into the buffer, at the end of the line, all the passengers were believed to be French.

Firefighters and rescue teams raced to the scene and Paris police chief Jean Paolini activated a "red alert" emergency plan.

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Ben Ali arrived in Tripoli today on his first visit to Libya since taking office, signalling that a wary friendship with North African neighbour Col. Muammar Khaddafi was back on course.

Ben Ali, one of whose first actions after becoming President last November was to resume diplomatic ties with Libya, had unexpectedly cancelled a previous visit, set for June 22, citing fatigue.

The last-minute cancellation was seen as a snub and suggested a chill only three weeks after the two leaders had met on the Tunisian holiday island of Djerba and agreed to work for closer links in all areas.

Computer breakdown delays flights

LONDON, Aug 6, (AP): Flights to and from some airports were delayed today when the main air traffic control computer for London broke down, the Civil Aviation Authority said.

Air traffic controllers had to chart all flight progress information by hand for three hours and 45 minutes while repairs were made, said an authority spokesman.

"Obviously everything is slowed up and controllers can handle less traffic," he said.

"In the interest of safety they are having to impose flow restrictions and this is going to cause delays."

At London's Heathrow airport, 70 flights bound for Europe were delayed for up to three hours and 12 flights were cancelled, he said. Flights from Europe were also delayed up to three hours and eight were cancelled, he said. Several overseas flights from the Middle East and the Far East were diverted to Brussels and Paris.

Problems at London's Gatwick airport, Britain's busiest charter airport, were compounded by early morning fog which forced 22 aircraft to be diverted to other British airports.

About 30,000 people were marooned by the flood waters, and at least 100 houses were destroyed, it said.

Cause of the computer breakdown was under investigation, the authority said.

A Pravda correspondent in

Friendship with Khaddafi sealed

Ben Ali visits Libya

TUNIS, Aug 6, (Reuter): Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali arrived in Tripoli today on his first visit to Libya since taking office, signalling that a wary friendship with North African neighbour Col. Muammar Khaddafi was back on course.

Ben Ali, one of whose first actions after becoming President last November was to resume diplomatic ties with Libya, had unexpectedly cancelled a previous visit, set for June 22, citing fatigue.

The last-minute cancellation was seen as a snub and suggested a chill only three weeks after the two leaders had met on the Tunisian holiday island of Djerba and agreed to work for closer links in all areas.

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A Pravda correspondent in

Iraq ready to accept ceasefire: Saddam

(Continued from Page 1)

the deployment of "international forces" between the Iranian and Iraqi Armies on the front.

The observers would remain until a "comprehensive and permanent peace achieved in acceptance of both parties and under the auspices of the United Nations secretary-general," INA quoted Saddam directly as saying.

"It is natural to say that we are going to benefit from the Shatt Al Arab waterway according to our inalienable rights and to benefit from the Arab Gulf in accordance with international laws immediately after a ceasefire is effected," he added.

He was referring to navigation rights on the Shatt Al Arab. Iraq's sole sea outlet, and in the Gulf which an Iranian naval blockade has prevented Iraq's vessels from flying.

Saddam's announcement was preceded by several days of relative quiet on the war fronts.

Iraq attacked three Kurdish villages in northern Iraq with chemical weapons, inflicting an unspecified number of casualties.

Victims

The agency said other victims could not leave the stricken border region of Lulan and claimed "a great number of women and children are left in the mountainous villages in critical condition."

It said the attacks occurred "in the past two days."

The three villages, according to IRNA, are Kani-Rash, Zavar, and Serou. The area is 37 miles (60 kilometres) from the two countries' northern border.

Perez de Cuellar received Security Council authority yesterday to send yet another investigative team to Iran following Tehran's charge that Iraq had again resorted to gas warfare.

White House physician Rodney Savage described the 64-year-old Vice-President as "an unusually active and healthy man."

On Thursday and yesterday Iraq emphatically denied Iranian accusations of an Iraqi chemical warfare attack inside Iranian territories.

Negotiations for the repatriation of at least 100,000 prisoners of war held in Iran and Iraq are also underway in Geneva and New York and in Baghdad and Tehran.

Discussions

The discussions, involving the two governments, the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, are part of the process for the implementation of Resolution 598.

Iraq said today it seized 18,000 prisoners and a huge volume of arms from Iran during the offensive launched late last month.

Saddam had talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal today on efforts to implement the UN ceasefire resolution, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

Prince Saud also visited Baghdad last Tuesday and Wednesday as a member of an Arab League committee of foreign ministers which endorsed Iraq's policy towards peace negotiations



Doves flutter over the Peace Park in Hiroshima, Japan, during a memorial service to mark the 43rd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima city. A dome gutted by the bomb, is seen in the background. (Reuter wirephoto)

Hiroshima remembers atom bomb victims

HIROSHIMA, Japan, Aug 6, (UPI): A flight of doves, a mournful tolling of bells and a silent prayer marked the 43rd anniversary today of the world's first atomic bombing.

An estimated 55,000 people fell silent under a blazing sun in Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park, the moment when on August 6, 1945, a US B-29 warplane dropped an atom bomb on the port city.

Some 140,000 people died within four months of the bombing, according to city officials.

The total number of identified victims, including those who died from the after effects of radiation, is 152,630 people. The city says an estimated 150,000 people never identified also died in the blast and ensuing fires that swept Hiroshima, 400 miles southwest of Tokyo.

The annual day of remembrance ended when hundreds of paper lanterns were lit and set afloat on four of the city's rivers, once clogged with bomb victims seeking relief from burning skin.

"As the only country to have suffered the tragedy of nuclear

weapons, we have made a firm resolve that Hiroshima and Nagasaki shall not be repeated," Takao Fujimoto, Minister of Health and Welfare, said on behalf of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who did not attend the ceremony.

The names of 4,473 bomb casualties who died in the last year were added to the names enshrined in granite cenotaph in the park that reads "rest in peace — let us not repeat this evil."

Treaty.

Some 360,000 survivors of the bomb are still alive.

Throughout the city of one million, cars and buses stopped as people bowed their heads and observed the moment of silence.

Later 1,300 doves released into the clear skies as a symbol of peace.

Four representatives from the Soviet Union placed a bright yellow wreath before the memorial, and several hundred Americans attended the ceremony.

The recent signing of the INF treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union gives hope

for a future dominated not by the threat of annihilation but by the promise of survival," Mayor Takeshi Araki, an atom bomb survivor, said in his annual peace declaration.

President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in December signed a historic intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty that calls for the destruction of a portion of their nuclear arsenals.

Outside the official ceremony, members of Hiroshima's many peace and anti-nuclear groups marched as riot-clad policemen kept watch. Police reported no incidents.

"I'm here because George Bush says we can win a nuclear war and I need to remind myself not to vote for him," said Carole Kowaleski of Anaheim, California.

"What happened here is a last chance, a nuclear catastrophe from which we still have time to learn," Ann Southwick, a University of Hawaii student, told an audience of 1,000 people at a youth symposium after the ceremony.

In an effort to make sense of conflicting findings in recent years, doctors at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston pooled results of 16 studies dating to 1982, weighing each study according to their judgement of its quality.

The researchers found "compelling" evidence that breast cancer risk goes up with increasing alcohol consumption, they reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

However, the findings do not prove alcohol causes breast cancer, because "association does not prove cause and effect," and unknown factors may be responsible for the heightened risk, said the researchers, led by Dr Matthew Longnecker.

They also noted that one or two drinks a day — shown to protect against heart or blood vessel disease — may provide a benefit outweighing the increased risk of breast cancer.

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Manila asks US to write off \$1b debt

MANILA, Aug 6, (Reuters): The Philippines has asked Washington to cancel some of its debt as partial compensation for use of two huge US military bases, President Corazon Aquino's spokesman said.

"That has been proposed by the Philippine panel," Teodoro Benigno told reporters.

He gave no details, but an American diplomat said today Philippine negotiators had suggested the United States write off \$1 billion in official loans Manila owes the government.

US negotiators were not optimistic about working out such a deal, said the diplomat.

The Philippines has nearly \$29 billion in total foreign debt.

Hostages.

US and Philippine negotiators have been talking since April about an agreement allowing for use of Clark air field and Subic Bay naval station, Washington's biggest overseas bases.

The talks cover the final two years of the accord expiring in 1991, but have raised doubts over the long term future of the bases.

The diplomat said the two

Expelled BNP men to form new party

DHAKA, Aug 6, (AP): Dissidents in the Bangladeshi opposition party have decided to form their own party to try to force President Hussein Muhammed Ershad from office, they announced today.

The dissidents of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's, led by the party's former secretary-general, Obaidur Rahman, made the decision at a meeting on Friday, a statement from the group said. It quoted Rahman as saying 150 top-ranking party leaders attended.

A leadership meeting would be held sometime in September, the statement said.

Khaleda Zia, president of the BNP, blasted the decision and said "conspirators were at work to destroy the party and its struggle against autocratic government."

"Now we will emerge stronger since the conspiratorial elements are out," she said.

Rahman and five other party leaders were expelled on July 28 for violations of party discipline. They demanded more say in the organization's operation.

Rahman helped Mrs Zia's late husband, President Ziaur Rahman, organize the BNP in the late 1970s. He also supported Mrs Zia's efforts to become head of the party in 1983 after her husband's assassination.

A series of demonstrations, some of them violent, have failed to unseat the President. But opposition leaders have said they would continue their campaign until Ershad resigns.

Ershad, a former Army general, took power in a bloodless coup in 1982 and won election as President in 1986.

Food prices rise in Burma after unrest

BANGKOK, Aug 6, (AP): Authorities begin special sales of staple foodstuffs today to low income earners in the Burmese capital who have been hit with rising prices, official Radio Rangoon said.

Rangoon-based diplomats have linked recent sharp price hikes and some hoarding of basic necessities by merchants to demonstrations and general tension in Burma.

Last week, thousands demonstrated against new President Sein Lwin, who has promised economic reforms but has moved quickly to quash all political dissent.

The broadcast yesterday said authorities had arrested 149 people in connection with last week's protests in Rangoon, which led the government to declare martial law in the city.

Leaflets circulating in Rangoon have called for a general nationwide strike Monday.

Authorities were to begin sales of rice, cooking oil, salt and assorted fish through various cooperative units "to help relieve manual labourers and low income earners affected by rising prices of staple foodstuffs," the broadcast said.

One Western diplomat said the price of rice had quadrupled over the past few months.

Thatcher condemns IRA attack

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Aug 6, (AP): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today strongly criticised the latest attack by the Irish Republican Army and called the group an enemy of freedom and justice.

Asked to comment during a news conference on the killing of a man and maiming of any kind.

"I can only make it perfectly clear to all the people of the world that this is contrary to democracy of any kind in the world. These people (the IRA) have no respect for democracy, either north of the border or south of the border."

"They are enemies of freedom and enemies of justice and they must be treated that way," she added.

Kovit, commander of the

Pakistan insists on mujahedeen government

Moscow shuns talks on new regime

ISLAMABAD, Aug 6, (AP): Pakistan's insistence that a government approved by Afghan refugees and guerrillas is the key to peace in neighbouring Afghanistan received a cool reception in Moscow, Pakistan's Foreign Minister said today.

Sababzada Yaqub Khan said upon his arrival in Islamabad the Soviets "were not particularly encouraging in this regard." He refused to give more details.

Khan, who returned from a two-week diplomatic trip to the United States and Soviet Union, expressed confidence the Soviets would keep their troop withdrawal schedule.

Denial

A peace accord signed in Geneva April 14 provides for the phased withdrawal of an estimated 115,000 Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan. Half are to be out by Aug 15 and the remainder by Feb 15.

Khan said there was no indication from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that

the Kremlin will deviate.

"I believe it would be right to take the view that the withdrawal will proceed as planned," he said.

Khan said Pakistan is sticking to its part of the Geneva bargain and Afghan allegations that it participates in "terrorism" exemplified "crude diplomacy practiced by Kabul and some other quarters recently to malign Pakistan. But this language was unworthy of the new Soviet outlook and approach in world affairs."

Khan's Foreign Minister said he had no advance warning of a surprise visit by Shevardnadze to Kabul on Thursday. Official Soviet and Afghan media have given scant details of the visit and Khan refused to speculate other than to say it was "obviously significant."

Khan insisted a government acceptable to all Afghan refugees and Muslim guerrilla groups was the key to "restoration of peace in that country and the safe and honourable return of refugees."

Pakistan hosts more than

three million refugees. Despite hopes that the Geneva accord would signal an exodus of refugees to Afghanistan, only a small portion has returned. The majority, whose mouthpiece is usually the seven-party Afghan guerrilla alliance, insist the Soviets and the ruling Marxist government must be out before they return.

Violations

Khan said efforts to steer the conversation with Shevardnadze away from the alleged violations of the Geneva accord failed. The majority of the Afghan complaints centre on Pakistan's role as weapons conduit to the guerrillas and the establishment of an interim guerrilla government on Pakistan territory. Pakistan denies the charges and claims the guerrilla government has not been recognised by Pakistan but neither can Pakistan but neither can Pakistan recognise the "mujahedeen" political activities.

Pakistan, meanwhile, blasted Soviet-Afghan forces for shell-

ing, rocketing and bombing Pakistani territory.

The American leg of Khan's journey ended with a commitment for continued close ties between the two countries and an assurance from Secretary of State George Shultz that he would help in the implementation of various arms sales proposals under the \$4.02 billion aid package.

The American Congress held up \$480 million in aid because it was worried about Pakistan's nuclear ambitions. Personal pleas from President Ronald Reagan released the money.

Meanwhile, it was reported today that the pilot of an Afghan Air Force bomber which was shot down in the Pakistani territory on Thursday night has been arrested. Pakistani daily "Frontier Post" of Peshawar said that the authorities in North Waziristan tribal agency where the plane fell, had sent the pilot to the security authorities in Peshawar for custody and questioning.

MRD vows not to allow partyless elections

ISLAMABAD, Aug 6, (KUNA): A big opposition rally held in the Sindh city of Sukkur yesterday vowed not to let partyless elections be held in Pakistan on Nov 16 as announced by President Zia ul-Haq.

Organised by the 9-party opposition alliance, the Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD), it declared that nothing short of party-based elections would be acceptable.

It was the biggest public rally in the history of Sukkur, the third largest city of Sind province. It also expressed lack of confidence in the election commission headed by Supreme Court Justice S.A. Nasrat and demanded the reconstitution of a new election commission to conduct the November polls.

This was the first of a series of rallies planned by MRD during August to mobilise public opinion against non-party polls.

Prominent MRD leaders Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, Tikka Khan and Mairaj Mohammad Khan addressed the rally presided over by Rasul Bakhsh Palejo, secretary-general of the Awami National Party.

They criticised President Zia for ordering partyless polls so as to perpetuate what they called his autocratic rule.

They said that Pakistan itself was the product of a party-based system. If this system had not been in existence before partition of India there would have been no Muslim League and no Pakistan, they said.

Elections on party basis were the best guarantee for the growth of democracy, the leaders asserted. They blamed the regime for rising ethnic, sectarian, and provincial feelings resulting in bloodshed. These trends were the natural outcome of curbing political parties by the martial law governments, the leaders charged.

Meanwhile, security was strengthened at US diplomatic missions in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta following anti-American demonstrations by members of the Shiite community yesterday following the assassination of prominent Shiite leader Arif Hussain Al Hussaini.

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Kuwait to take part in youth camp

KUWAITI youths will take part in the second labour camp for youths of GCC states to be organised in Sudan this month, according to Jidea Al Ajmi, director of labour camps for youths.

He added that the Kuwaiti delegation will consist of 10 youths and administrators.

He said that the ministers of youths of GCC states reviewed a report on the first joint labour camp held in Manila in 1986. The present camp will be held according to the ministers' decision taken at their meeting in the UAE last year.

The present camp will consist of 60 youths from the GCC states and 60 from Sudan and be administered by 12 administrators from the GCC states, four from GCC Secretariat and six from Sudan.

The members of the joint camp will build a store at camp headquarters in Sudan, build classrooms in three primary schools, and complete afforestation and environmental projects, he said.

Kuwait is free from cholera

THE director of the public health department at the Ministry of Public Health Dr Rashed Al Uwais appealed to citizens and expatriates — especially those who come from India — to visit the nearest health centre when they suffer from severe diarrhoea and vomiting.

He said that Kuwait is free from cholera and added that the vigilance of the ministry in preventing the entry to foodstuffs carried by passengers has helped in preventing the diseases from entering into the country.

Dr Al Uwais pointed out that there were 137 reported cases of cholera in the summer of 1985 and 33 cases in the summer of 1986 while it reported only four expatriate cases last year.

He added that it is difficult for this disease to spread in Kuwait due to the availability of good sewage networks, clean drinking water and strict control on imported foodstuffs.

The centres of the ministry that were opened to examine the expatriate manpower discovered 160 cases of malaria, 15 cases of filariasis and 100 cases of TB among expatriate workers till July end he said.

21 exhibitions will be held

SALEH HAMDAN, the public relations director at Kuwait International Fairs Company, has said that 21 different exhibitions will be organised at the exhibitions ground in Mishref between August 1988 and December 1989.

He added that the most important exhibitions would be the 14th and 15th Arab Book exhibitions from Nov 23 to Dec 2, 1988 and Nov 29 to Dec 8, 1989 respectively, two children's exhibitions, the first from Dec 7 to 19, 1988 and the second in December 1989, the Kuwait modern fashions exhibition from Nov 2 to 7, 1988, the 10th festival of children's toys and books in March 1989, the Kuwait tourism exhibition from March 26 to April 20, 1989 and the third medical exhibition in November 1989.

He pointed out that the company aimed at competing with international exhibitions and that it had constructed a site occupying 1,600 square metres in the Mishref area, comprising galleries, showrooms, car parks and public utilities.

He added that the company also planned to build commercial complexes and entertainment centres to meet future needs.

Traffic accidents cause 17pc of deaths

THE director of research and studies department at the Ministry of Interior, Colonel Abdul Majeed Khurabat, said that 17 per cent of deaths in Kuwait are attributed to traffic accidents.

In an interview with the internal magazine of the Ministry of Interior he said that 80 per cent of those killed in accidents are under 30 years of age.

Violations

The official explained that there are seven main kinds of traffic violations in Kuwait: speeding, driving without a licence, reckless driving, parking in prohibited zones, overloaded vehicles, expiration of car insurance and violation of plate numbers.

As per statistics, 232,000 violations were recorded in 1987. There were 114,832 violations in the Capital Governorate, 67,945 in Hawalli, 9,826 in Ahmadi, 20,530 in Jahra, 6,497 at motorways, 12,422 reported by emergency patrols, and 8,359 violations of safety, he said.

Colonel Khurabat pointed out that road accidents cannot be attributed to drivers alone as

Arms deal amendments correspond to Kuwait's interests: Sheikh Sabah

DEPUTY Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed said yesterday Kuwait agreed to amend an arms deal with the United States.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters the amendments correspond to Kuwait's interests.

Kuwait had officially asked the US to sell 40 F-18 aircraft, Maverick missiles and bombs worth \$1.9 billion.

Opposed

The deal was opposed by pro-Israeli US congressmen that led the Senate to veto the inclusion of the advanced Maverick missiles in the deal.

However, HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah during his visit to Washington last month persuaded neutral parties in Congress to approve the deal after assuring that the arms will be used to defend Kuwait and not for any other purposes.



Sheikh Sabah

US Secretary of State George Shultz later declared that the American administration and the Congress had reached a com-

promise on the deal, namely to supply Kuwait with Maverick-G missiles which are less advanced than the Maverick-Ds.

The New York Times newspaper had reported that pro-Israeli congressmen had agreed to sell Kuwait 300 Maverick-G missiles instead of 100 Maverick-D missiles.

Designed

The G version of the infrared guided missile was designed primarily for use against ships while the D version was for use against tanks.

Key US congressmen said on Wednesday they had agreed with the Reagan administration to stretch out delivery of the weapons and to exchange the F-18s on a one-for-one basis with A-4 aircraft now in Kuwait's possession.

They said delivery of the F-18s would be extended to 1994 instead of being completed by 1993.

Meanwhile, an Abu Dhabi daily said the American administration was quick to agree with the Congress on the arms deal to Kuwait, after reports that Britain and France offered to meet the military requirements of Kuwait.

A military source in the British Ministry of Defence was quoted by Al Ittihad daily newspaper as saying that his country was prepared to supply all the needs of Kuwait if the US Congress had turned down the deal.

He added that such a huge deal would provide any arms-producing country with a lot of liquidity.

Balked

Washington learned from past lessons when an Arab country turned to Europe for arms deal when Washington balked at supplying, the source said.

He was apparently referring to last month's Saudi-British multi-billion dollar deal.

Successful visit

THE assistant to Egypt's Minister of Justice for Judicial Studies Affairs Samir Naji in an interview with a local daily described his visit to Kuwait as very successful.

Naji on Thursday met with the Kuwaiti Undersecretary at the Ministry of Justice, Naser Hamad Al Roumi along with Kuwait's Attorney General Hamed Al Othman, the Assistant Undersecretary for Legal Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Dhakeel, and the advisor at the Kuwaiti's Court of Appeal Abdul Aziz Al Fahd.

Also speaking to the daily, Al Roumi said his talks with the Egyptian official focused on sending some Kuwaiti public prosecutors to Egypt for training. This was in keeping with the accord recently signed in Cairo between the Kuwaiti Minister of Justice and his Egyptian counterpart.

The first batch of trainees will be sent next October

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed.

The Amir also received the Algerian ambassador to Kuwait on the occasion of ending his diplomatic mission.

Amiri cable

HH the Amir yesterday sent a cable of congratulations to Bolivia's President on his country's National Day.

Crown Prince audiences

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday received Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah, Social and Labour Affairs Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed and Hawalli Governor Sheikh Salman Al Hmoud.

Crown Prince message

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah yesterday sent a congratulatory message to the President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan on the occasion of his accession as ruler of Abu Dhabi.

Anyone spreading AIDS intentionally 'will be punished'

since they are in the early phases of the disease.

Dr Al Enezi affirmed that those put in isolation were given special treatment during their hospital stay, noting that such a step is aimed at containing the disease.

He explained that AIDS can only be transmitted through a sexual intercourse or drug use, stressing that sitting and eating with carriers do not contribute to the communication of the virus.

A ranking official at the hospital emphasised that the Health Ministry treats information on patients with the utmost secrecy, such as giving their lab test special number rather than names.

Symptoms

Describing the AIDS symptoms, the official said that the patient initially suffers an enlargement of his lymph nodes around the neck, in the underarms and pubes. Later he complains of high body temperature, diarrhoea and loss of appetite.

Dr Al Enezi added that the carrier is then invaded by what is called opportunistic micro-organisms, which lead to the deterioration of the immune system.

He noted that the patient can be treated with antibiotics, but stressed that the person might suffer a relapse which in turn leads to his death.

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Somali minister ends visit

as to establish mutual trust.

Hamed said the agreement, a preliminary accord to finding a just and lasting peace to basic problems between the two countries, stipulated the disengagement of forces and withdrawal of each country's troops 15 kilometres back, ending hostile propaganda campaigns and sabotage operations, normalisation of relations and exchange of prisoners.

Most of the articles have been implemented, he noted, hoping that Ethiopia will complete application of the rest to establish trust between the two nations.

Asked to comment on the ongoing negotiations in the UN to end the Iraq-Iran war after Tehran's acceptance of the Security Council Resolution 598, Hamed said that "any Arab or Muslim regrets this destructive war that has been going on for a long time to no avail."

He added Somalia has welcomed Iran's approval of Resolution 598 and hopes that the UN Secretary-General would be successful in finding means of halting this war.

Colonel Khurabat stressed on the importance of meeting technical specifications of vehicles to protect passengers, pedestrians and the environment.

Gases from car exhausts are the cause of various health problems, cars that meet international specifications will contribute to preventing accidents and are as well economical in the long run, he said.

Hamed had conveyed a message to HH the Amir from Somal President Mohamad Siad Barre.

Hamed also held talks with HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and Deputy Premier Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed on bilateral relations and problems in the Horn of Africa as well as the situation in Somalia.

The minister, in an interview with KUNA, said that Mogadishu believes in that method and has already used it to amend relations with Ethiopia.

He hoped, in this respect, that Addis Ababa would execute the agreement signed between the two countries in April this year so.

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Children's theatre

Taking stock of past progress

FOR Awatif Al Bader, children's theatre is a year-long project, rather than one restricted to Eid and holidays.

On Nov 1, 1978, she staged the first Kuwaiti play for children at the Special Institutes Theatre. Now, 10 years and countless plays later, she plans to divert her energies away from production and into other sectors of children's theatre — but only for a while.

"We need to stop what we're doing and examine our progress in the field over the last decade or so," Al Bader stated recently. "Standards must be set to protect the chil-

dren."

She lamented that a number of recent plays had failed to achieve the sought objectives. Children's theatre, she said, served both educational and entertainment purposes and so should deal with matters that would help to develop latent talents and general behaviour.

Al Bader advocated stricter censorship of scripts, especially of plays geared towards the younger audience. Lifestyles representing traditions and habits alien or contrary to a child's culture could have only a detrimental effect on his mentality and education.



Qasem Hashem Awad: In the same profession for 92 years.

Wife wanted — no age limit

WANTED: A wife. Prospective groom is healthy, has a steady job and has never been married. His age: 101 years.

Qasem Hashem Awad, an Iraqi, first came to Kuwait 35 years ago. His daily wages at the time amounted to 400 fils, a substantially greater sum than his very first wages: two fils a day, in 1896.

Awad does not claim knowledge of a life-prolonging formula; he stressed that he has never paid any attention to his health. He has never needed to throughout his long life, not once has he been admitted into hospital.

Awad's daily intake is

limited to a loaf of bread and soup. He smokes four packs of cigarettes a day and drinks 20 cups of tea. He sleeps about four hours every day.

He can neither read nor write, but has been following the latest developments between Iraq and Iran with great interest, and his role-models include President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

His one unaccomplished hope remains marriage. Asked what characteristics he was looking for in a wife, he replied that simply being married would be enough to make him happy; beyond that, he wasn't too fussy.



Awad: his role-models include Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Awatif Al Bader advocates stricter censorship of scripts in order to protect children.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Tareq Rajab Museum

The museum in Jabiya houses a collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world. Summer timings are 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, Sat thru Thurs. On Friday the museum is open only in the mornings.

Islamic Arts Museum

The museum, located on Arab Gulf Street, is open from 8:30 am to 12:30 noon and 4:30 to 7:30 pm, Saturday to Thursday. A collection of the finest Islamic art objects are on show.

Kuwait Science Museum

The museum will be open to the public every evening from 5 pm and from 9 am on Friday.

SOCIAL

German-speaking Cultural Association

The regular coffee mornings for ladies will continue on a small scale during the summer months. Coffee mornings will be held on Sunday, Aug 7 at Kuwait Hilton's La Paissiere from 10 am on those days. All German-speaking women are welcome.

Summer Belle 88

The United Goans Centre will hold their annual Summer Belle 88 contest on August 11 at the SAS Hotel's The Tent. The gala event marks the 10th anniversary of UGC. Entertainment includes music by Stepping Stones and City Limits. For further details contact Tony Gonsalves — 2613024 or Joe Fernandes 5655140.

Y.M.C.A.

The Y.M.C.A. will present the "Come September Ball" at the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel on September 1. Highlights include the selection of the Queen of Queens. Top Ranks will be in attendance.

Bangladesh variety show

Bangladeshi children will present a variety performance in mid-September. The date and venue will be announced later. Those interested in taking part, please contact Jayati or Farzana.

Malayalam debate

A series of debates on Malayalam cinema are being held this month. The topics are: A discussion on the important creation of Malayalam cinema (Aug 12); the different stages of cinema production and its influence on entertainment (Aug 19).

The discussions will be carried out mainly in Malayalam. For information on time and venue, please contact Karun, 4814477.

Indian Arts Circle

The Indian Arts Circle will stage a programme at 7:30 pm, Aug 18, to mark the end of a year's celebration of the 40th anniversary of India's independence. All Indians are cordially invited.

Onam Festival

The Viswabharathi Theatres, Abbasia, will celebrate Onam on Aug 25 at the Indian Arts Circle. IAC President M. Mathews will be the chief patron. The programme comprises Onam songs, Mohiniyattam, classical dances, Thiruvathirakkali, folk dances, light music, one-act play, boat race and Kerala rural arts. Those interested in taking part contact Lazar Varghese — 4314511; Thomas Persumpilly — 4810490 ext. 207; Verghese Paradyil — 242973.

D'Assisi Association

The association will hold a social evening-cum-variety show on August 11 at Messiah Beach Hotel. The event is part of the 40th anniversary of Indian independence. Top Ranks and Next of Kin will be in attendance. For details contact Leena — 2469811, 9:30 am to 5 pm; Henry 3291909 (am) 3717346 (pm) or August on 5746754 after 6 pm.

HOTELS

At the Meridien

La Brasserie offers Friday brunch from 12 noon to 4 pm; also open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Beat the summer heat with cool juices offered in the lobby lounge; musical entertainment is provided in the evenings.

At the Continental

The Darbar offers a daily lunch buffet with a wide range of Indian kebabs and curries. A la carte for dinner.

At the Holiday Inn

Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop offers international buffet meals at lunch and dinner from 6 am to 1 am; a la carte also available. Fresh pastries and cakes can be bought every day at Vienna Cafe. The Hanging Babylon Gardens are ideal for a period of quiet relaxation.

On Wednesday, join the Shabrazad barbecue at the poolside; there will be games, prizes and surprises. On Thursday, enjoy music and food at the Arabian Night at the Al Andalus Supper club. Al Dana offers a special treat for children at the Friday brunch, open from 11 am to 3 pm.

Recreation facilities include squash and tennis courts, male/female gyms with saunas, solariums, whirlpools, and massage and relaxation rooms. At the Hilton

La Palma has introduced a new 12-day buffet cycle featuring Arab specialties; open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner, from 6:30 am to midnight.

At the Failaka restaurant, select from a wide variety of dishes to make your own table top buffet. The Magnetic Band provides live music in the evenings. Open every day 12:30 pm and 7:30-11:30 pm.

Ice-cream, cold drinks and this week's special-baked cheesecake are available at La Patisserie. Open daily 10:30 am-10:45 pm.

At the Kuwait Plaza Hotel

The Al Dhalah coffee shop offers buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as a set menu mini business lunch.

Light snacks and ice-cream are available at the International Food Arcade; open 10:00 am to 11:00 pm.

Enjoy Turkish cuisine, a la carte, at the Bosphorus restaurant. Open for lunch and dinner every day except Saturday. The Marco Polo restaurant offers Italian food, live music and a candlelight atmosphere.

There is a Filipino Night, every Sunday 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm; live entertainment provided.

At the Sheraton

Enjoy Italian cuisine and live entertainment by the Sienna's Duo at the Riccardo restaurant. Riccardo is closed on Fridays.

Al Hambra features authentic Lebanese cuisine every Sunday and seafood specialties on Wednesday nights; a sumptuous buffet is offered on Fridays. Live entertainment is provided by the Lords.

The Hunt Room offers a variety of meat and fish preparations and live music by solo harpist Harp Dreams.

Arab world specialities are available every Thursday evening at Le Tarboche. A buffet lunch and dinner is offered on Fridays.

The Coffee Shop features a wide range of international cuisine and has a daily special.

At the Ramada

El Bender Coffee Shop offers continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner from 6 am to 12 midnight; a la carte also featured.

The take-away counter, opened daily from 4 pm to 11 pm, offers a selection of Arabic sandwiches and snacks.

The Lobby Lounge offers a selection of coffee, tea, juice, cakes and pastries.

SPORTS

10th Winners Cup

cricket tournament

The YMCA will hold the All Kuwait Open 10th Winners Cup cricket tournament, beginning September. It will be played on Fridays and holidays at the KOC ground, Ahmadi. Teams wishing to participate can contact Joe D'Sa. Tel: 3981790, 3-5 pm; 3924659, 5-8 pm.

Boy's Own Club

Boy's Own Club will organise a seven-a-side one-day football festival on the holiday declared to mark the Prophet's birthday (October 22/23). Interested teams can contact Milagres 3967446 or Joe D'Souza 4813622.

PBAK bowling tournament

The PBAK inter-commercial bowling tournament will be held in the second week of August. All companies wishing to take part are requested to register on or before August 7 at the 300 Club. For details contact PBAK director Sarah Macarimbang 4843447.

Kuwait Nomads

Kuwait Nomads pre-season training starts Sunday August 7 at 7:30 pm. All are welcome. For details contact 5642599.

KTV 1

9:00 Holy Quran

9:15 Good-morning

9:30 Cartoons

10:15 Dawa Lil Hub: starring Mirvat Amin, Mustafa Fahmi, Iman Al Tuki

11:15 Ala Dunya: Al-Salam: Arabic serial, starring Suad Abdullah, Hayat Al Fahd

12:15 Justice: foreign weekly serial

1:30 Variety Show

2:30 Al-Sarab: Arabic serial starring Mahmoud Saeed, Abu Ghareeb, Abeer Issa

3:35 Cartoons

4:15 Arabic feature film: "Tal Al Aqareb" starring Noura, Younis Shalabi, Salah Qabeel

6:00 Al Jawhara: children's serial

7:30 Dewaniya Shura Al Nabat

8:30 Waqalat Al Arab

9:45 Al Hussan: Arabic daily serial starring Samiha Ayoub and Saad Ardash

10:30 Special programme with musician Abdul Faith Mansi

11:30 News summary

12:00 Hillary's Adventures: "Dear Recovery"

10:30 Bestseller: "The Perfect Spy", based on John Le Carre's novel.

11:30 News summary/Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 2

6:00 Holy Quran

6:10 Heathcliff

6:30 3-2-1 Contact: a programme on various types of primitive and developed means of communications

7:00 Understanding Islam: weekly talk on Muslim philosophy presented by Arasaf Al Ashi

7:30 Valerie: "The Six" Valerie notices her son acting rather strange after a date.

8:00 News in English

8:30 The Flying Doctors

9:30 My Two Dads: "Nicole's First Date" Once again, opinions differ at home and the case of Nicole's first date is referred to the magistrate.

10:00 Hillary's Adventures: "Dear Recovery"

10:30 Bestseller: "The Perfect Spy", based on John Le Carre's novel.

11:30 News summary/Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown



A Perfect Spy, the mini-series based on John Le Carre's best-selling novel, continues tonight on KTV 2 at 10.30 pm.

English

Morning

0800 Opening

0802 Songs and Music

0830 News

0840 Songs and Music

0845 Daily Programme

0900 Bands with a beat

0930 Songs and Music

1000 Our Press Today

1005 Songs and Music

1030 Pick of the Pops

1100 Closedown

1330 News FM Service

Evening

2100 Opening

2102 The Young Sound

2130 News

2145 Point of View

2155 Songs and Music

2200 The World of Sports

2215 In the French Mood

2245 Daily Programme

2300 Pop Session Special

2400

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

NOTHING goes swifter than the years — Ovid, Roman poet (about 43 BC to 17 AD).

Jordan's recent moves

Hussein puzzles State Department

By Barry Schweid

WASHINGTON. (AP): The American investment in Jordan's King Hussein — in peace dreams and hard weapons — is so great the State Department cannot imagine going ahead without him as it sees peace in the Middle East.

Despite the steps he has taken over the past weeks to sever ties to the West Bank, the Department resists its faint hopes for negotiation on the assumption Hussein will play a role in any settlement.

The king's declaration Sunday abandoning any claim to the Israeli-held territory to the Palestine Liberation Organization has not prompted a change in US policy or in Secretary of State George Shultz's formula peace talk.

There is no place in the US plan for a PLO seat at the negotiating table, nor for a separate Palestinian delegation. The State Department still would like "responsible Palestinians" to join a delegation with Jordan and to meet with Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy during his current trip to the Middle East.

Prohibited

But any meeting by Shultz, Murphy or other American diplomats with the PLO remain prohibited until and unless Yasir Arafat's Organization accepts Israel's right to exist and renounces terrorism.

Vernon Walters, the US permanent representative to the United Nations, said Thursday there should be "some sort of a Palestinian delegation" at the peace table.

But State Department officials hastened to explain that Walters was not signaling a change from the idea of a mixed delegation promoted by Shultz. "Our positions remain as they were before," spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said.

When Murphy reaches Jordan during his current regional tour, he will seek clarification of the king's declaration severing administrative and legal links to the West Bank, his abandonment of a special fund to assist Palestinian Arabs and Jordan's announcement Thursday that 21,000 Palestinian civil servants would be dismissed or retired.

In the meantime, though, a State Department official who keeps a close eye on the twists and

turns in the Middle East said, "we don't have any indication the Jordanians are going to be breaking their ties to the West Bank. Absolutely not."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, cited Jordan's control of passports and bridges in the area. West Bank farmers still are shipping their goods to Jordan and through it to other Arab countries. Members of divided families visit back and forth.

Jordanian dinars are the common currency on the West Bank. Jordanian law often is applied. Many of the Palestinian Arabs hold Jordanian citizenship.

The territory was controlled by Jordan from 1948 to 1967. Ever since Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 six-day war, US policy has been based on the assumption Jordan wanted to run the West Bank again.

Walters stressed that Jordan's border with Israel precludes the detachment of Hussein from Mid-West peace efforts. The king has met through the years with Israeli leaders. And despite his differences with Israel, the king has erected an implicit barrier that has kept terrorists from penetrating.

As Hussein began to make his West Bank moves last week, State Department officials suggested privately the king was deliberately putting the PLO on the spot after a series of disappointments.

Refused

His efforts to form a mixed delegation with the PLO were torpedoed by Arafat in 1986, a year after they had agreed to try. Except for two members of the Palestine National Council, the PLO has refused to permit Palestinians to meet with Shultz or to volunteer for participation in the Jordanian-led delegation.

In effect, the king out of frustration may be inviting the PLO to see if it can work out a better deal for the Palestinians than the one he has sought in the fact of PLO opposition. Failure then could mean a call on Hussein by the Arabs to step in.

Of course, Hussein also has been frustrated by the refusal of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to guarantee a withdrawal from the West Bank.



Kohl's Moscow visit

Rust release removes obstacle

By Susan Cornwell

MOSCOW. (Reuter): The release by the Soviet Union of young West German pilot Matthias Rust has removed a major obstacle to better relations with Bonn before an autumn visit to Moscow by Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Rust, 20, was released on Wednesday and put on a plane to West Germany, ending an episode that had detracted from progress being made in Soviet-West German ties following a lengthy chill.

Ever since Rust was imprisoned for his illegal flight to Red Square in May 1987 every West German politician visiting Moscow has found it necessary to appeal for his release.

The last was Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, in Moscow over the weekend. He declined at a news conference afterwards to talk about Rust saying public discussion of the sensitive case would not be helpful.

Clear

In Bonn, an official spokesman indicated the decision to free Rust has seen as an attempt to clear the decks before Kohl leaves in the second half of October for his first visit to the Soviet capital since 1983.

The spokesman quoted the chancellor as saying Rust's release was "a positive gesture in view of my visit to Moscow."

The visit is expected to put to rest bad feelings caused by Kohl's comments in a November 1986 magazine interview comparing Gorbachev's publicity skills to those of Nazi Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels.

Rust also said he thought his release from a four-year prison term after just over one year signalled improved ties between his homeland and the Kremlin.

Improvement

He told Tass News Agency the decision to free him had been a "human act" but added: "I think this also attests to the overall improvement of relations between our countries."

He said he had no complaints against the Soviet authorities who had interrogated him, sentenced him and locked him up in Moscow's Lefortovo prison.

Analysts say the kyat currency may be devalued in a further indication of realism on the part of the government.

"Quite frankly Sein Lwin might do quite a good job as he has all Ne Win's mistakes as examples to avoid. If he can't cope, only one thing can happen — a military coup," one Burmese source said by telephone.

Sein Lwin's prospects hinge on Army support which would be in jeopardy if troops were ordered to shoot civilians, diplomats said.

Poorest

Burma close to political chaos

By Joseph de Rienzo

BANGKOK. (Reuter): Burma is dangerously close to political chaos, possibly beyond anything its new leader Sein Lwin can do to prevent bloodshed and save the ruling Socialist Party, according to Burmese and foreign political analysts.

Thousands of anti-government protesters massed in Rangoon on Thursday and security forces fired warning shots to disperse them. They gathered in several parts of the city in defiance of martial law imposed by the new Socialist Party leader and president on Wednesday.

One Western envoy said: "The government's effort to deter protests by declaration of martial law has failed."

Students, after years of intimidation, have been leading the protest. Diplomats said martial law was imposed to pre-empt demonstrations planned for next Monday on the eighth day of the eighth month of the year 88 — considered a portentous date.

Western diplomats said it appeared that disciplined Army troops and demonstrators were at pains to avoid violence but added tensions, fuelled by simmering grievances over repression and declining living standards, could lead to a showdown.

Poorest

Sein Lwin took over from Burma Socialist Programme Party founder Ne Win whose "Burmese way to Socialism" — a mix of militarism, Marxism and Buddhism — is blamed for turning the country into one of the world's 10 poorest states.

Sein Lwin, who was responsible for the riot police before taking overall power, is seen by many Burmese as a symbol of

Israel's view of Gulf ceasefire

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. "It may be a dangerous development for us." That's how one Israeli defence sources sizes up a possible ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf war.

While welcomed elsewhere, the prospect of peace between Iraq and Iran raises fears here that Iraq's mighty war machine might some day be used against Israel. The two countries are long-time adversaries.

So far, official Israeli responses to the announcement that Tehran accepted a United Nations ceasefire resolution have been cautious and noncommittal.

But private Israeli analysts and well-placed Israeli officials, speaking off the record, agree that Israel will face no immediate threat from Baghdad when the fighting finally stops.

Iraq will need time to rebuild roads, towns, and industries, all

'Dangerous development'

while keeping a wary eye on Iran. The Iraqi people, having "tasted what war means" are unlikely to be eager for new military adventures any time soon, says Reserve Brig. Gen. Aharon Levan, head of the Middle East Military Balance Project at the Jaffa Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University.

Iraq will also be reluctant to close ranks against Israel with Syria, "an Arab sister that stabbed Iraq in the back" by supporting Iran in the Gulf war, says General Levan.

"If Israel had taken a more positive attitude toward Iraq and condemned the Gulf war more vigorously, it might have helped in getting Iraq in the camp of Mubarak and Hussein, working in the direction of peace," says Hebrew University Middle East specialist Amnon Netzer, referring to King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

There is conflicting evidence as to whether Baghdad actually sig-

nalled an interest in better relations with Israel during the war. But Iraq did restore ties with Washington and warm up to Egypt, once a pariah for making peace.

With or without such signals, Israel could have capitalized more effectively on Iraq's struggle to buy good will, some analysts say.

Instead, Israel now faces a far more formidable Iraq that owes it no favours.

Since the start of the war, Iraq has doubled the size of its Army to 50 divisions, comparable to the United States Army. Israel has 12 divisions. Iraq has also upgraded its Soviet-supplied Scud-B surface-to-surface missiles which, armed with conven-

tional or chemical warheads, can now reach Israeli targets.

Israeli military sources are

most worried about Iraq's improved mobilization capabilities, which could make it a major factor in any future Mid-East war.

Deploy

Israel and Iraq do not share a border. But, using specially made transport, Iraq can quickly deploy thousands of tanks and various divisions from the Iranian border to complement an attack launched from Syria or Jordan. Israeli military analysis say:

"Within one night we can find ourselves being faced with 1,000 tanks. It's alarming," says an Israeli defence sources.

High-tech weapons outstrip US military's ability to use them

By Charles Aldinger

WASHINGTON. (Reuter): A Navy report this week citing human error in the US downing of an Iranian airliner has raised the issue of whether high technology weapons are outstripping the American military's ability to use them.

Defense analysts told Reuters they were not surprised by a leaked report blaming the crew of the computerized one-billion-dollar cruiser Vincennes, but said it pointed to a growing problem with complex weapons in tight situations: the human factor.

Since man began pouring boiling oil on opponents climbing castle walls, the experts said, weapons have depended on those manning them.

"Mistakes happen frequently in the fog of battle no matter how sophisticated the guns are," said Tom Longstreth of the private Federation of American scientists.

"But now we have an ever more sophisticated and very expensive high tech Navy. Can you teach young people enough in a reasonable time so they can effectively use the weapons, especially if it comes to fighting the Russians?"

Defense officials, who asked not to be identified, told Reuters on Wednesday that Navy investigators cited crew error on the Vincennes for the July 3 downing of an Iranian airliner, killing 290 passengers and crew.

They said the report, to be officially released by Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci later,

suggested Vincennes radar operators mistakenly convinced themselves that the Iran Air Airbus was an F-14 fighter jet making a hostile run toward the ship.

The officials said the radar operators were under extreme stress because they were in combat for the first time. But some experts were sceptical because the Vincennes and its crew were designed and trained to combat the might of the Soviet Navy, whereas in the Gulf they were fighting three small Iranian speedboats.

Iranian UN representative Mohammad Mahallati, asked if he accepted the conclusion that human error was responsible, said: "I don't know what you mean by human error. Those people responsible for reading the Aegis (radar system) should have had sufficient training. Otherwise we wonder why those kind of people would have been put before that Aegis."

Descending

US officials also said the Vincennes computerized radar did not show the airliner was descending toward the ship in an "attack mode" as was suggested by US Navy Admiral William Crowe just hours after the incident.

"I'm sure he wasn't intentionally lying about it," analyst Harlan Ullman of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies told Reuters when asked about the original claim of Crowe, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

But Ullman and others could not explain where the Crowe

statement came from. And they noted that Tehran was right all along when it bitterly blamed US Navy incompetence for the incident.

"It's unfortunate that the report leaked," said Ullman. "But it shows that high tech is not a substitute for skill, timing and luck."

The question here is not whether systems work, because this one did — it shot down an airplane. The question is in the policy which put a ship and that crew in a position to make a decision which might have been impossible in a few short minutes."

Analysts said US politicians and the public as well as the military too often worship at the altar of high tech warfare, which produced a ship designed to fight World War III on the high seas, not necessary in a narrow waterway like the Gulf.

"I kind of expected it," said retired Navy Rear Admiral Eugene Carroll, a frequent critic of US Navy strategy.

"This is a blinding glimpse of the obvious. It wasn't a mistake, but an inevitable consequence of our policy of cramming ships in the Gulf to do what many were not designed to do," said Carroll, a director of the Washington-based Centre for Defence Information.

"The radars don't know anything. The computers don't know anything. The screen displays don't know anything. It's all up to human interpretation. And that interpretation is always open to human error," he said.

Philosophy of US Congress

'Do as we say, not as we do'

By Peter Osterlund

WASHINGTON. They call it "the last plantation."

It is a place where some 35,000 people toil unprotected by the great civil rights legislation of the 60s, a place where the boss' word can be tantamount to law, and a place where the guiding philosophy might be summed up as "do as we say, not as we do."

The sources told Reuters the six contenders, all Maronite Christians, were former Minister of Information Michel Eddé, members of parliament Pierre Helou and Rene Moawad, former Central Bank governor Michel El Khoury, lawyer Manuel Younes and National Liberal Party leader Dany Chamoun.

American ambassador John Kelly produced the list from dozens of people regarded as possible contenders after talks with local Muslim and Christian groups allowed him to eliminate those who were "unelectable," the sources said.

The 1943 national covenant calls for the president to be a Maronite, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim and the House Speaker a Shi'ite Muslim.

Nervousness

Security sources said Murphy's visit had eased mounting nervousness that the poll might not be held, leading to a power vacuum and possible new military confrontation among rival Christian and Muslim militias.

American ambassador John Kelly produced the list from dozens of people regarded as possible contenders after talks with local Muslim and Christian groups allowed him to eliminate those who were "unelectable," the sources said.

The 1943 national covenant calls for the president to be a Maronite, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim and the House Speaker a Shi'ite Muslim.

Change

And it is a "form of hypocrisy" that is coming under increasing attack from those who have benefited from it. A recent series of well-publicized incidents has brought working conditions on Capitol Hill to national attention. Several members of the House and Senate are rushing in with legislation to make laws applying to the rest of the country apply to Congress. Even some red-faced senior members of Congress — heretofore the staunchest defenders of the old system — have begun to accept that the practices of the old will have to change.

"The old dons don't like it," says Rep. Lynn Martin (R) of Illinois, author of newly introduced legislation that would place congressional and judiciary employees under federal civil rights and employment laws. "But there's been so much crud that the climate's different. You can just sense a sentiment for real

change."

That sentiment has intensified in the aftermath of an unusual episode that began recently. The Washington Post printed a front-page article in which former aides to Rep. Roy Dyson (D) of Maryland described bizarre demands allegedly placed on male staff members by the congressman's chief assistant, Thomas Pappas. The former aides contend that Pappas' demands included ordering an aide to perform a striptease at an office retreat.

By the end of the day on which the story was published, Pappas was dead, having apparently leaped from the 24th floor of a New York hotel in desperation that the allegations had ruined his career. Two days later, Representative Dyson announced that he had known nothing of

VDU's causing eye-strain among office-workers

Focussing on optical fatigue

By Christina Doyle

AMONG all the hazards of working with visual display units, eyestrain is the most common.

More than eight in 10 people who work for many hours each day at a screen say they experience tired, burning and itchy dry eyes or blurred vision and headaches.

Tell-tale signs of visual malaise include offices decked with screens and posters or wrapping paper pasted to the architect-designed windows. The aim is to dim the bright light and reflections which aggravate "glare eyes."

Like miners, who blinked and rolled their eyes as they tried to reset them after long hours underground, today's workers at the "screen-face" can find it hard to refocus in the real world. Some drivers complain of difficulty focussing on traffic following a long VDU session.

VDU users complain more than others with visually demanding jobs. They talk about their eyes swelling or

being out of focus, seeing pink spots, or their actual eyesight changing.

Sensitivity to bright light is common. One woman said she felt as though her eyes had "aged 20 years".

Nearly half the women workers in an American study said they had either needed glasses for the first time or needed to change their existing glasses or contact lenses.

Very few people would wish to turn back the clock — computers are transforming the modern workplace.

Yet with the number of VDUs doubling each year, the issue of how to counter optical fatigue is growing in importance.

Chronic eyestrain not only lowers productivity, it also affects working relationships and spoils enjoyment of activities that require close work.

One acknowledged, but rare, risk is "photosensitive epilepsy." Sometimes a virtually undetectable flicker on the screen, which can be a problem with older units, can

trigger an epileptic fit in a susceptible person.

Another possibility is that VDUs may influence the development of cataracts in a small minority of people.

While VDUs are not believed to cause actual deterioration to eyesight, what of today's "guinea pigs" who may spend their lives screen-bound?

Dr William Stark, a professor of physiological optics and engineering from the University of California, says the extent to which VDUs cause visual problems may not be known for years. He says "I believe many highly motivated users suffer ocular discomfort beyond that appropriate to a normal workplace."

Accepted

He notes that: "VDUs were developed from television screens which were designed for large moving objects to be viewed at a distance for a short period of time... Implicit is the manufacturer's claim that legibility is adequate, but we all prefer the easy convergence on a book, typewritten material or even a photocopy of printed

material to the same letters on a screen."

What is universally accepted by the specialists is that as many as one in three of us have undiagnosed eye problems which could be uncovered through working with VDUs. In one year, four in 10 brokers in one city firm required glasses.

Like exposing the weak link in a chain, the VDU may help unmask sight defects or the changes which occur with age earlier than might otherwise be known for years. He says "I believe many highly motivated users suffer ocular discomfort beyond that appropriate to a normal workplace."

Optometrists stress that these problems are not temporary and that they will affect good vision unless eyes are tested and appropriate glasses worn.

Some people with perfectly adequate everyday vision — whether or not they wear glasses or contact lenses — may find they require glasses just for working with a screen.

When reading, most of us focus about 12 or 18 inches away from a reading glasses. We can achieve that. But VDU screens are usually between 20 and 30 inches away which means that those with slightly impaired sight or who use glasses for close work will find it difficult to focus clearly.

Bifocals or even trifocals can produce the worst eyestrain, with the upper part of the lenses adjusted for distance while the lower part cannot reach the screen.

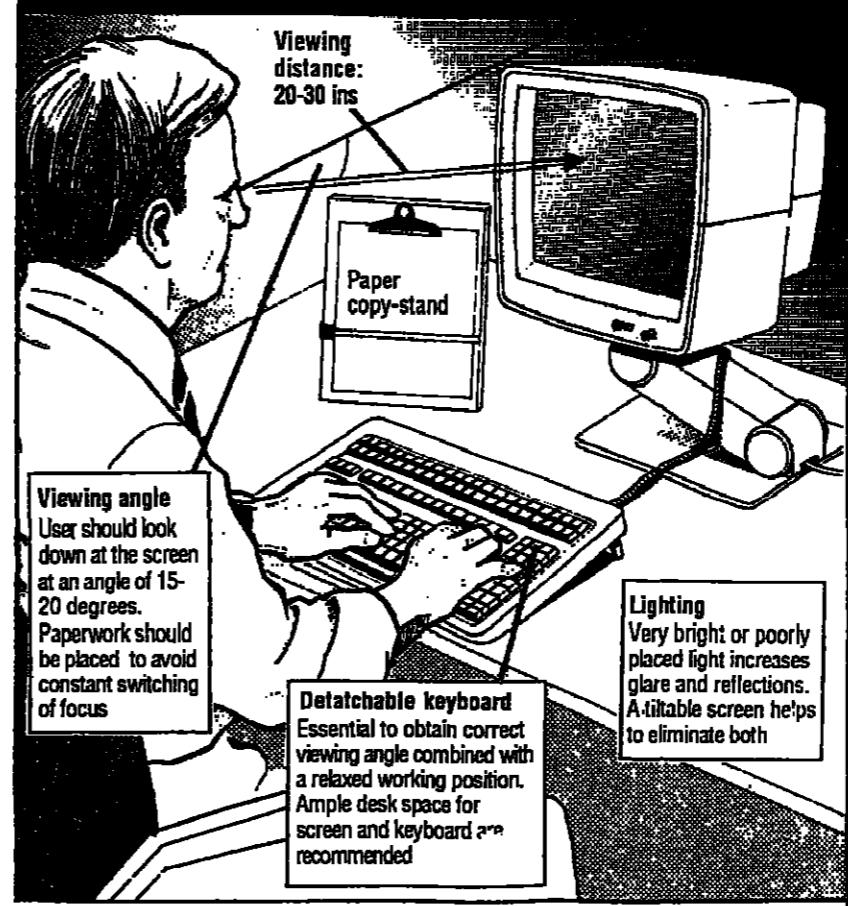
In an effort to adapt, users may tilt the screen or their necks, perhaps adding to the neck and shoulder tension — another VDU bugbear.

By adjusting eyes for the screen is not only a matter of correct glasses. Glare, reflections from expanses of windows without curtains or blinds, and long working hours without a break all severely overload the visual system.

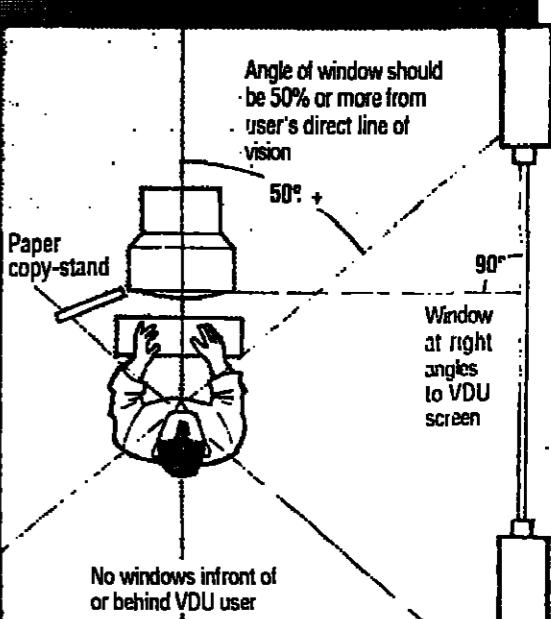
Some say it is like being caught in a vicious circle of having to "manipulate" their eyes into position rather than simply "seeing" with them.

The visual "marathons" run daily by those in endlessly

HOW TO POSITION A VDU TO AVOID EYE STRAIN AND GLARE



Improving VDU vision
VDUs do not appear to emit rays that damage eyes, but eyestrain is common. Those who do not usually wear glasses may need them for clear focus at a comfortable height and distance, and others may find they need different glasses for VDU work



Graphic: Alan Gilliland/Roy Castle

Checklist for healthy eyes

more lighting than a 20 year old.

● **GLARE GUARDING:** experiment to contrast the letters as sharply as possible and to banish reflections. Judiciously placed partitions may help, but avoid white and shiny surfaces.

Be very wary of tinted anti-glare glasses; the effect quickly lessens and you may be worse off.

Critics say the filtering effects of some commercial glare guards wears off. One beneficial side-effect of some shields is that they cut down static, which accumulates around VDUs, and the electro-magnetic emissions that have been linked with an increased miscarriage risk.

If someone fits a filter inside your computer check that they are covered by insurance if they should break your machine.

● **SCREEN COLOUR:** one view that black on white is least stressful as it is closest to normal reading matter.

● **EYE EXERCISING:** look up frequently. If possible, establish a 20ft "vista" away from your screen and practise switching your focus to people or objects in it. Plants are restful and have the added bonus of reducing static.

● **BREAKS:** these are crucial. The only way eye muscles truly relax and recover their tone is with a 15-minute rest from the screen. A 15-minute break every hour is preferable to five minutes three times an hour.

As a general rule intensive VDU work should be limited to 50 per cent of the working day.

● **ALCOHOL:** slows visual reactions and could add to eye stress and strain.

repetitive "data inputting" can lead to a higher incidence of any strain, and may be linked with depression and irritability. More women than men suffer because they are likely to be carrying out the repetitive jobs.

Professor R. Weale, recently director of the Institute of Ophthalmology in London, says: "We have done research comparing close pencil and paper work with VDUs and we could not establish any great difference in objective measurements of eye function. We know that eyes may get tired, but when specialists examine them they fail to find any actual impairment."

View

This view was reinforced a few years ago by a massive American report on the use of computers from the National Research Council. Nonetheless, dissenters say no large studies have been carried out to measure the long-term effects, and that with increasing use of VDUs it will become more difficult to set up relevant studies to show if there is, say, a greater tendency to more or earlier short sight.

Least at risk are the highly motivated. Not only may interest and reward drive out stress, but creative jobs may entail more natural breaks from the screen.

The "creators" may also be at an advantage physiologically. With adrenaline running, pupils dilate more, which may mean less strain on the ciliary muscles; boredom, on the other hand, leads to constricted pupils with eye muscles working overtime.

Office and home ergonomists suggest improvements to our personal working space to counter the health threats. As Ursula Huws, author of the VDU Hazards Handbook states: "It should be possible for management and employees to design jobs which do not create new occupational strains."

Many have already done so and others are following with agreements that cover the time spent each day working with a VDU: some workplaces now have between two to four hours a day limit on continuous working, breaks to allow eyes to recover, training and eye checks. The major question now is whether these good practices should be backed by the state.

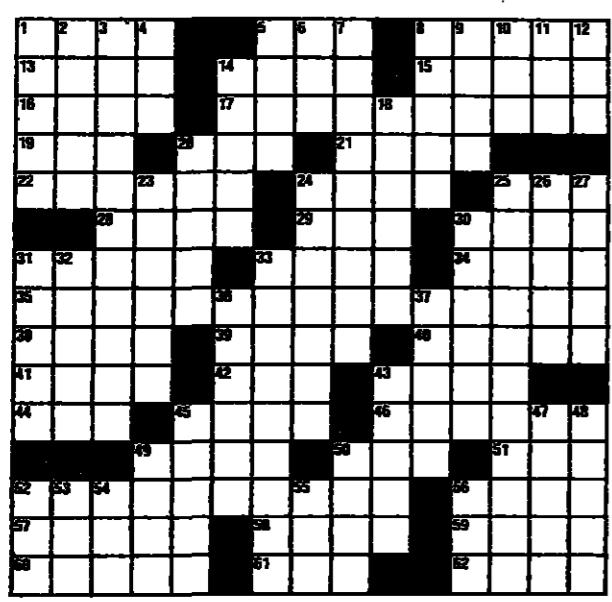
Last month the first law to regulate VDUs was signed in America in Suffolk County. In companies with more than 20 employees, those who use VDUs for more than 26 hours a week must have breaks of 15 minutes after three hours, and the company must pay 80 per cent of the cost of an annual eye check. In 12 months time, all new "work stations" must have anti-glare filters and diffuse overhead lighting.

In Europe, proposals now put forward by the European Commission would mean that from 1991 employers would have to conform to minimum standards for VDU workstations and provide eye checks for workers before employment and later if eye problems arise.

The British Health and Safety Executive, which is sponsoring research on visual discomfort, is strongly against statutory eye tests. "There is no scientific justification for pre-employment eye checks," the Executive told a House of Lords Select Committee last month. Some employers who started such schemes have abandoned them because so little was discovered, says the HSE.

The VDU Workers Rights Campaign in London, among others, accuses the HSE of "extra complacency". Coordinator Irene Hamilton says: "We feel very strongly that the HSE is out of step and encouraging a situation where VDU workers develop problems that could be prevented."

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1 Namesakes of a Reiner
- 5 Before Beth or Heath
- 8 Smarted
- 13 Arctic shelter
- 14 Nimbus
- 15 Kayak's relative
- 16 Doesn't care —
- 17 Home of the Dolphins
- 19 Private eye
- 20 Negligent
- 21 Weight units
- 22 Request
- 24 Tear apart
- 25 Kennel noise
- 28 Screen star Fay
- 29 Compass pt.
- 30 British poet
- 31 Dostoyevski novel, with "The"
- 33 Egg on Yolies
- 35 Patriotic colors
- 38 Sacred image
- 39 Aquatic mammal
- 40 Sources of energy
- 41 Scatters seed
- 42 Columnist Buchwald
- 43 Store away
- 44 Time period: Abbr.
- 45 Stats for Mattingly
- 46 Villain's epithets
- 49 Flotter
- 50 PGA's Shead
- 51 Musical syllable
- 52 Go-ahead signal
- 56 Blow a horn
- 57 Fathered
- 58 Menageries
- 59 Devine or Griffin

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SHED	AWL	DODGMA
SWEAR	VIA	ORIEL
CALVIN	AND	HOBSES
AMOEBA	CLAN	ETO
BITS	SPHERE	
TAR	ESCAPE	
TORAH	IWO	BARED
AGAVE	MAY	USING
SERIF	PSI	READY
SEESAW	DAY	
RENTED	RAPTS	
ETS	STOA	APOGEE
DENNIS	THEMENACE	
DRUID	EDS	ADIOS
ANGLE	DEP	RONS

GOREN-BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

DRAWING TRUMPS THE RIGHT WAY

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH

♦ Q 10 9 7
♥ J 10 9 7 2
♦ 8 4
♣ J 3

WEST

♠ K 8 6 5 4
♥ 8 6 4
♦ 9 5 2
♣ K Q 6

EAST

♠ A 3
♥ A Q 3
♦ K Q J 7 6 3
♣ A 8 2

SOUTH

♦ 2
♥ A Q 3
♦ K Q J 7 6 3
♣ A 8 2

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass 1 ♠

1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ 3 ♠

Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

Bridge writers tend to concentrate on hands where game or slam has been bid, or where a contract has been doubled. As a result, many a gem played in a partial glitters unseen.

Fortunately, this one cropped up in international competition, so we can pay full tribute to the great Australian star, Tim Seres.

South might have tried a double at his second turn rather than simply rebidding his diamonds. That would

probably have led to interesting play at a heart contract, but would have robbed us of the opportunity to witness expert defense.

West led his fourth-best spade and Seres won the trick with his jack. Since declarer was marked with a singleton spade, he assuredly held some length in clubs and, left to his own devices, he would be able to ruff one or two clubs in dummy. Therefore, it was incumbent on the defenders to get rid of dummy's trumps.

Having reached this conclusion, most defenders we know would have shifted to the ace of trumps and another. Declarer would have won and drawn the last trump, and then bashed out the ace-queen of hearts. When that fetched the king, he would have made the rest of the tricks, collecting an overtrick in the process.

Seres found a far better defense—he shifted to the ten of trumps! Declarer had no counter. If he attacked hearts immediately, the defenders could collect a heart ruff and a club for down one. So he tried another trump, but that proved no better. East won and shifted to a club, and the defenders collected two club tricks and a heart for the same result.

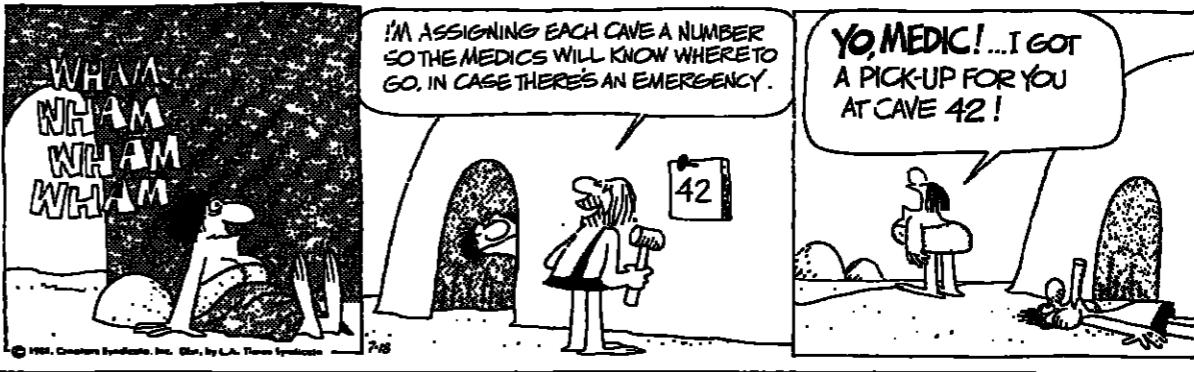
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

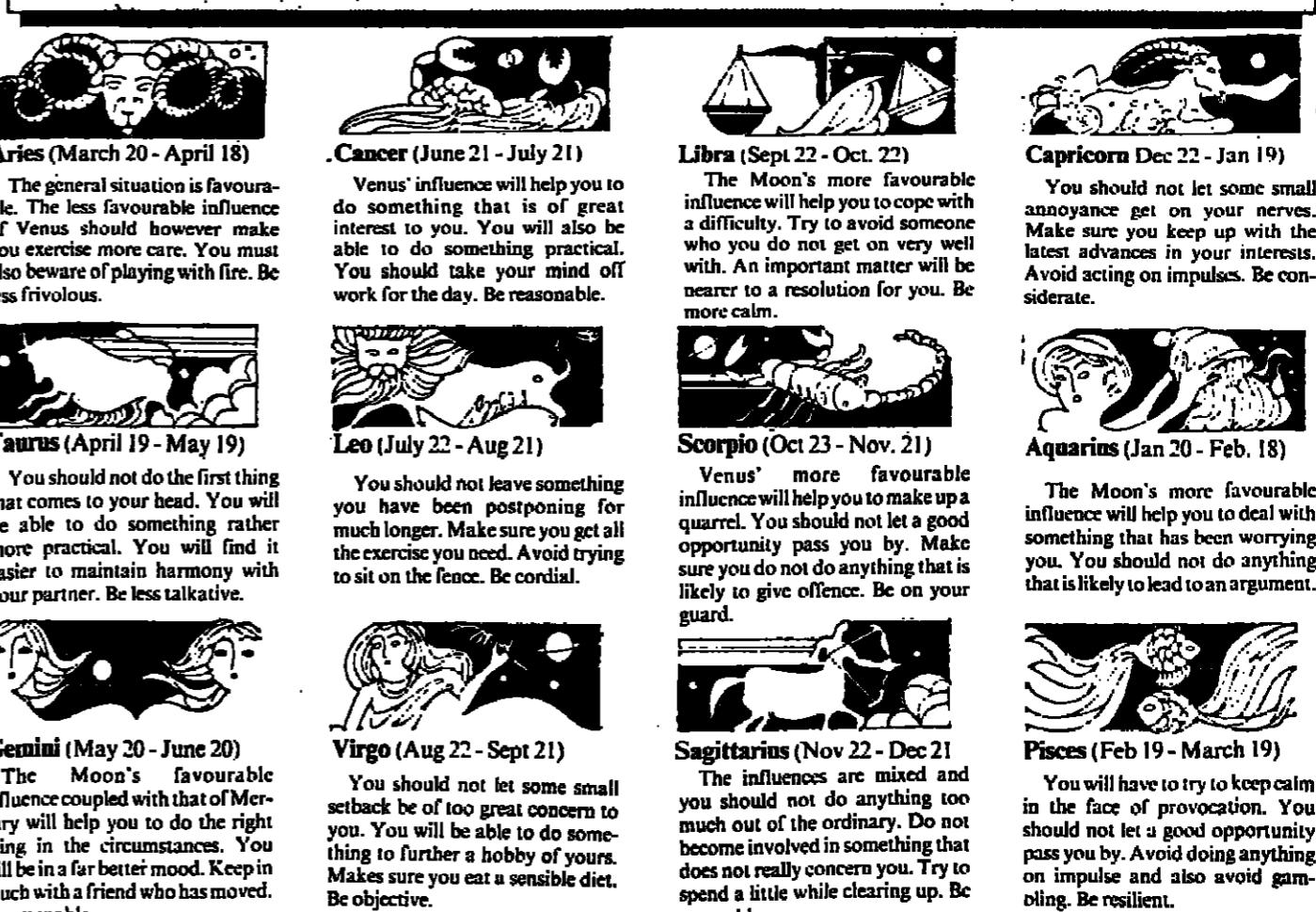


By Johnny Hart

B.C.



YOUR STARS



The Moon's more favourable influence will help you to cope with a difficulty. Try to avoid someone who you do not get on very well with. An important matter will be nearer to a resolution for you. Be more calm.

You should not let some small annoyance get on your nerves. Make sure you keep up with the latest advances in your interests. Avoid acting on impulses. Be considerate.

The Moon's more favourable influence will help you to make up a quarrel. You should not let a good opportunity pass you by. Make sure you do not do anything that is likely to give offence. Be on your guard.

You should not let some small setback be of too great concern to you. You will be able to do something to further a hobby of yours. Makes sure you eat a sensible diet. Be amenable.

The influences are mixed and you should not do anything too much out of the ordinary. Do not become involved in something that does not really concern you. Try to spend a little while clearing up. Be amenable.

You will have to try to keep calm in the face of provocation. You should not let a good opportunity pass you by. Avoid doing anything on impulse and also avoid gambling. Be resilient.

SNIPS & SNAPS**Marcos back home from hideout**

HONOLULU: Deposed Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos slipped back into his home after hiding out following reports of gunmen near his residence. A Philippine official said Marcos might be faking the threat.

Marcos and his wife, Imelda, had spent the night at a friend's home on Oahu Island, after guards said they saw guns sticking out the windows of three cars driving past the Marcoses' hillside home last week, said Marcos spokesman Gemino Trinidad.

Security was tightened outside the home following the reports, Trinidad said.

In the Philippines, government spokesman Teodoro Benigno said he didn't know anything about the report of gunmen and didn't want to comment "because one of the world's master illusionists is at work."

Trinidad declined to say what time the Marcoses returned home.

"This is a security matter, and I would not like to discuss these things in public as it might jeopardize security measures," Trinidad said.

The report of gunmen came on the same day a published report said Marcos had offered to pay the Philippine government \$5 billion in exchange for being allowed to return to his homeland free from criminal prosecution. Marcos denied the report.

Aquino cracks whip at sluggards

PRESIDENT Aquino has started cracking down on her economic development officers, and ordered them to implement government projects which have long been pending, Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno said yesterday.

"The President felt she had to use some form of brass knuckles to spur her officials into action now, before she was all sweetness," Benigno told a press briefing.

Mrs Aquino's impatience over the slowfootedness of government bureaucrats in addressing the nation's economic woes surfaced during a meeting with the 12-man Cabinet Officers for Regional Development (ORD).

Advertising eroding Filipino values

SEN. Jose Lina Jr. deplored the erosion of values which advertising material in various media purvey, creating false needs and wants, instead of enriching the Filipino national heritage and cultural traditions.

Lina said some advertisements even alienate Filipinos from themselves, "deriving status and prestige from foreign things and materials and craving for food and things which we don't really need and which are not suited to a people like us who are struggling with the use of our own resources."

Lina seeks to effect Filipinization in the advertising industry in the country through Senate Bill No. 167 requiring 70 percent Filipino ownership of advertising companies in the Philippines.

Speaking before a "Communication for Decade of Nationalism" dialogue-forum sponsored by People in Communication at the Asian Institute of Management, Lina called for a re-evaluation of the "substantial content and impact of the advertising industry on our people, particularly the youth who comprise some 62 percent of the total population."

PBA All-Filipino Conference**Great Taste nip Alaska Milk**

DEFENDING champion Great Taste Milk celebrated the return of Abe King night with a 112-108 win over Alaska Milk in another PBA All-Filipino Conference thriller at the ULTRA.

King himself sealed the Milk Masters' triumph when he sank two foul shots that gave Great Taste a 112-108 lead, six seconds left.

King, playing his first game this season after long absence, scored 14 points to help the Milk Masters to their sixth win as Great Taste became the second time to clinch a seat in the five-team semifinals.

The first team to clinch a semifinal slot was Purefoods, which booked its seventh win in 10 outings with a 117-104 win over RP-Swift in the first game.

The loss dropped Alaska Milk to fourth spot with a 5-4 record, half a game behind idle San Miguel Beer (5-3) and a full game

Will Aquino run again in 1992?

President Aquino

WILL President Aquino, the non-politician who has pledged to serve only for one term, run for re-election in 1992?

The recent realignment of forces within the ruling coalition, statements of political leaders and the actions of the President herself indicate that she is keeping her options open for a second term.

Although the President has said she would retire after 1992 because she has already done enough to redress the wrongs committed by former President Marcos on her husband and the nation, her close political advisers are saying she can be persuaded to run again.

"Everything is possible," says Rep. Jose Cojuangco, the President's brother, when asked by Cebu reporters whether she could be prevailed upon to run again.

Again, on her recent trip to Europe, she told news conference: "At first I did not want to be President, but now that I am President, I intend to be a successful one so that Filipinos can have a better life."

Other indicators of her future intentions:

dence Day address in which she declared that this year will mark the beginning of "decade of nationalism." Although her term ends in 1992, or four years from now, she said: "As we begin our ten-year march to full nationhood, let our steps be guided by the fixed star of nationalism..."

Again, on her recent trip to Europe, she told news conference: "At first I did not want to be President, but now that I am President, I intend to be a successful one so that Filipinos can have a better life."

This probably explains why

- The formation of the LDP to support her — although she is not a member in her programme of government and possibly in her future bid for re-election.

- Recent interpretations of the constitutional provision limiting the president's term to only six years, saying she is not covered by the prohibition, because she took office long before the constitution was ratified.

- The latest polls which show her undiminished popularity and her frequent trips to the provinces to meet directly with local leaders.

Potential

Many potential presidential candidates in the loose coalition look at the forming of the LDP as a ploy to thwart their ambitions. They express their support for the President, but they are reluctant to align themselves with a party that could eliminate them from contention.

There is a nagging suspicion that Mirra, supported by Rep. Cojuangco, will use the LDP to advance his own presidential bid should the President decide not to run. On the other hand, if the President agrees to run again, the LDP will ensure her victory with its backing.

— Associated Editors

This probably explains why

the Liberal Party headed by Senator President Jovito Salonga, the splinter PDP group of Senator Aquilino Pimentel and the UNIDO of Vice-President Salvador H. Laurel publicly announced their refusal to join the LDP even if their members will be divested of key committee posts in Congress.

The elections are still four years away, but some of the key leaders in the fragmenting coalition are said to be busy forging secret alliances with various political groups, including members of Marcos's Kilusang Bagong Lipunan.

The LDP itself is said to have entered into a secret arrangement with former Marcos henchmen and independents in a bid to strengthen its ranks. Salonga, on the other hand, is reportedly negotiating with former members of Aquino's cabinet and exiled businessman Eduardo Cojuangco, whose resources could boost the logistics of the Liberal Party. Pimentel's PDP may end up with an alliance with nationalist groups including the leftist Partido ng Bayan.

By keeping their own parties alive, the other prospective candidates feel their own chances to run for the presidency won't be jeopardized. — Associated Editors



NPA rebels while away their time: upper hand in the first quarter of '88?

Enrile accuses government of cover-up**Secret report lists military reverses**

THE Philippine government has brushed aside a secret report listing reverse suffered against the Communist rebels and maintains that the armed forces had the rebels "by their intestines."

The military report, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, said the Communist New People's Army (NPA) launched a string of raids and ambushes and won all but one of 15 major battles with government troops between January and March.

The report said the NPA's estimated 23,000 guerrillas controlled about a fifth of the nation's 41,600 villages, adding that 587 government soldiers were killed during the first quarter compared with 656 rebels.

It said deployment of the 150,000-strong armed forces in small platoons or detachments made them "fixed and vulnerable" targets for surprise NPA attacks. "The thin dispersal ... open [troops] to defeat in detail by a numerically inferior enemy."

President Corazon Aquino told Congress last week that the insurgency had been broken last year, adding: "For the armed left, it has been a year of defeats and retreats."

Aquino was accused recently by Senate opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile of a covering up.

Senate President Jovito Salonga stopped Enrile from tabling the military report, saying it might affect national security.

The military report said the NPA staged 59 ambushes during the three-month period and launched 60 surprise raids.

It described an attack on a military camp in Kalinga Apayao in February when government forces "surrendered without firing a shot" because the rebels used the soldiers' wives and children as shields. It said they captured 52 high-powered weapons in the raid.

President Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno told reporters he had talked to senior military officials about the report.

Overseas workers encouraged to remit via banking system

THE Central Bank said last week it is deeply involved in efforts to encourage overseas contract workers (OCWs) remittances through the banking system.

The CB is a member of an inter-agency committee which is assigned the task under Executive Order 1021 dated May 1, 1985 of designing, adopting and implementing package of incentives that will encourage the inward remittance of contract workers' earnings thru official channels. The office of the President and the Department of Labour and Employment have a representative each in the committee.

The Central Bank said it encouraged and supported efforts of commercial banks to develop programmes that will induce overseas contract workers to utilize formal remittance channels.

The matter of making Philippine banking facilities available abroad to OCWs is not always within the scope of its authority, the CB said. Laws and regulations in countries where there are concentrations of Filipino OCWs do not, in most cases, allow the setting up of branches or offices of foreign banks in their respective territories.

An example of this is PCI Bank's overseas remittance facility which makes use of the extensive branching network of their Middle East correspondent.

He added that they borrowed money and some even sold property to pay unscrupulous recruiters fees of about \$250. He said some Manila agencies charged up to \$1,000 for a two-year contract.

Once abroad, the women depended on their employment contracts and their employers could intimidate them by withholding money and even their passports or threatening to sack them, he said.

Filipino workers face problems in Cyprus

NICOSIA — Philippine Ambassador Juan Saez said recently that he raised problems encountered by Filipinos working in Cyprus in talks with President George Vassiliou and other officials.

Saez, who is also accredited to Lebanon and Jordan, said after presenting his credentials to Vassiliou that the Cypriot government's attitude to foreign workers was positive.

"They don't want them to be exploited," Saez said.

But he said that, depending on the outcome of talks with the minister of labour and other officials here, he might suggest his government ban young Filipino women from travelling to the island and Lebanon as entertainers.

Saez said he had information that in most cases women entertainers in Cyprus were forced to dance in cabarets, though they were not told this when they were recruited.

Prostitution

He also said he believed some were forced into prostitution.

"I will consider recommending that their passports be stamped 'Not valid for employment as entertainers in Cyprus and Lebanon' pending the results of the discussions," he said.

Diplomatic sources said maltreatment of foreign women was widespread in the Middle East.

They said human rights groups looked after their interests and little such assistance in the Middle East, where embassies and religious orders tried to help.

Cabaret workers said foreign women in Cyprus made about \$40 a night, worked seven nights a week and performed topless in some nightclubs and bars.

"To sit with customers, they drink beer at \$27 a bottle, of which they get about a dollar," one worker said. "They can be bought out of the bar for a bottle of champagne, filled with a soft drink, costing around \$120."

Some women said they sent money home to help their families or saved it for their own education or to open small businesses.

Saez said higher wages lured them from the Philippines, where unemployment was a serious problem as the newly-restored democracy was unable to solve all problems overnight.

Philippine honorary consul designate in Cyprus, John Erotokritou, said the women often did not report maltreatment.

Problems

"Many problems could be solved by a phone call if only the girls reported incidents... many abuses can be avoided once the girls understand they have rights and can exercise them," he said.

He added that they borrowed money and some even sold property to pay unscrupulous recruiters fees of about \$250. He said some Manila agencies charged up to \$1,000 for a two-year contract.

Once abroad, the women depended on their employment contracts and their employers could intimidate them by withholding money and even their passports or threatening to sack them, he said.

We told the representative of India in a committee of the UN General Assembly that "we will become the spokesman of a country that practices the caste system ever to preach doctrines on human rights." We should address the same observation to former Chief Justice P.M. Bhagwati of India, who apparently heads the International Lawyers Forum "mission."

It is time foreigners realised that, for all our foibles, follies, and shortcomings, we Filipinos are quite capable of running our own affairs.

Foreigners meddling in Philippine internal affairs

By Melchor P. Aquino

ONE is sick and tired of foreigners meddling in Philippine internal affairs. There hardly is any day that some wayward do-gooder or interloper does not come from another country to give us Filipinos a sanctimonious lecture on government, economics, or human rights. And Filipinos provide the platform and gather the audience.

If it is not a labour group of dubious credentials that invites foreigners to the country to berate the government for allegedly flouting international conventions and oppressing "progressive" trade unions, it is a group of "cause-oriented" people that brings into the country foreign "authorities" on human rights to heckle the administration and Congress for supposedly tolerating "violations of human rights."

Aided

Certain incidents stand out. Ramsey Clark, who shares with Jane Fonda the nameless infamy of siding with Hanoi during the Vietnam war, came to the Philippines not too long ago, ostensibly upon the invitation of a "cause-oriented" group avowedly concerned with observance of

labour leaders" issued a joint press statement, which they did not have guts enough to sign. Yet, the local and foreign sectors of the global "progressive" labour movement reaped propaganda gains from the whole affair.

Subsequent developments showed that the coming of the foreign labour leaders was part of an elaborate plan to downgrade the scheduled address of President Aquino to the last ILO conference. It is noteworthy that the plan proved a resounding flop.

And, now, we have a "mission" of the International Labour Organisation conference in Geneva, a motley assortment of "internationally known labour leaders" appeared on the scene to air the alleged concern of "world labour," whatever that is, over the Philippine government's "undemocratic" and "reactionary" policy toward organised labour.

Did the distinguished visitors hear from their host, the National Council of Churches, that officers of the law, such as Constabulary and police

officers, as well as lawyers of accused state offenders are gunned down in urban areas, chiefly Metro Manila?

Did the illustrious international jurists know that the carnage they and their host copiously bemoan is the offshoot of the urban terrorist campaign launched by the rebels?

Is the assassination of a Constabulary or police officer by a communist outlaw considered in New Delhi or Washington as much of an unspeakable crime and outrage as that of a practising lawyer?

It is all too easy for lawyers from India, the United States, Pakistan, Japan and Europe to come to the Philippines, mount ready platforms, and intone pulchritudinous, sonorous platitudes on respect for human rights.

Did they have sense enough to realise that the Philippines, for all the problems of political, social, and economic adjustment that it faces, let alone an armed

Great Taste nip Alaska Milk

behind Great Taste (6-3).

RP-Swift suffered its fourth straight loss after 111-101 upset of Purefoods last July 14 and saw its record drop to 2-6.

In the first game Alvin Patrimonio and his idol, Ramon Fernandez, each had 20 points.

Fernandez narrowly missed establishing a triple double when he plucked 13 rebounds, issued nine assists and had three blocked shots. He had eight points in the third quarter where the Hotdogs opened an 88-71 lead.

RP team point-guard Dindo Pumaren was recovering from a flu and watched from the bench as Purefoods pressed Ricardo Marata in the entire first half. Apparently unimpressed with a 53-43 advantage, Hotdogs coach Cris Calilan ordered a crippling full-court press from the third quarter on, completely stifling the national's offense.

Behind Great Taste (6-3).

King, seeing action for the first time this season, came in for Atoy Co a minute into the second quarter and quickly displayed his old form by blocking a shot and hitting a jumper.

He was rested with 3:01 left in the second quarter just as Great Taste ignited a seven-point run that gave the Milk Masters their biggest lead



THE final touches are given to the Los Angeles-class nuclear powered attack submarine USS San Juan, in preparation for joining the US Navy, during commissioning ceremonies yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



THIS group of protesters wearing death-masks and carrying wind-chimes were some of the thousands of peaceful marchers who walked through Sydney streets yesterday commemorating the 43rd atom-bombing anniversary of the Japanese city of Hiroshima. (Reuter wirephoto)



A RUNAWAY train smashed into the buffers at Paris' Gare de l'Est station, leaving the engine wrapped around high metal pillars on a deserted platform. One person was killed and 40 injured in the accident. (Reuter wirephoto)



LABOURERS dig out a body from the rubble in Amritsar's Golden Temple complex. Forty-one people, tortured to death by Sikh extremists, have been found hidden in the rubble during the seven-week clean-up of the temple complex. (Reuter wirephoto)



A SMALL Indian girl holds a sign during an anti-nuclear demonstration by children yesterday in New Delhi. About 100 schoolchildren took part in the demonstration marking the anniversary of the atom-bombing of Hiroshima. (Reuter wirephoto)



ZAC DE BEER, the new leader of South Africa's leading white anti-apartheid party, the Progressive Federal Party. (Reuter wirephoto)



US Secretary of Defence Frank Carlucci (left) shakes hands with Turkish President Kenan Evren during his visit to Turkey. (Reuter wirephoto)



IF these beach-goers in Gerona, in northeastern Spain, thought they were escaping to a quiet holiday it seems they were mistaken as thousands jammed the beach to take advantage of the temperatures in the mid-30s Centigrade. (Reuter wirephoto)



PRESIDENT Reagan announces the resignation of Treasury Secretary James Baker (left) and appointment of Nicholas Brady as Baker's replacement during a brief ceremony at the White House on Friday.

(Reuter wirephoto)



DEMOCRATIC presidential nominee Michael Dukakis is flanked by California Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy (left), and US Sen. Alan Cranston as they show T-shirts during a campaign rally. (Reuter wirephoto)

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Economy continues to grow at a rapid pace

Brady likely to follow Baker's economic policies

WASHINGTON. Aug 6. (Reuter): James Baker hands over the reins at the Treasury Department at a time the US economy is in robust health, the financial markets are relatively stable and the Third World debt crisis, while still simmering, is at least not boiling over.

As a result, his successor, former Senator Nicholas Brady, will probably not have to launch any major initiatives in the final months of the Reagan administration, which will hand over power to Republican George Bush or Democrat Michael Dukakis on January 20.

But, as inevitably occurs when America's leading economic policymaker steps down, a period of uncertainty will ensue that could unsettle investors, particularly the foreign investors on whom the US relies to finance its trade and budget deficits.

Nervousness

"There is some nervousness on the part of most foreign investors," said David Jones, chief economist at New York bond dealer Aubrey G. Linstone and Co. Inc.

"Baker was a known quantity and gained international respect

during his tenure as Treasury Secretary," he added.

Baker's departure to head the presidential election campaign of Vice President George Bush, a long-time friend and fellow Texan, had been the worst-kept secret in Washington for more than a year.

The White House took the precaution of waiting until Wall Street had closed before announcing Baker's resignation, but traders said the financial markets had discounted the news and little reaction was likely on Monday morning.

Slide

Currency markets displayed no nervousness at all over the likely departure of the man who, in his three-and-a-half years as Treasury Secretary, engineered a quick slide in the dollar to improve US trade performance and then succeeded in holding it within fairly narrow ranges.

Indeed, the dollar closed at the highest levels of the year against the West German mark on Friday as a robust US employment report added to the bullishness generated by an improving trade balance and rising short-term interest rates.

Interest rates, which have been

David Hale said Baker would go down in history as the great figure of the Reagan administration, perhaps even as a global "financial Bismarck" who provided leadership on the management of exchange rates and the co-ordination of economic policies at a critical time for the world economy.

"This alone will not unsettle the dollar," Linstone's Jones said of Baker's resignation.

But, if the dollar were to peak, the question mark hanging over Brady, worries over the trade bill that President Reagan is due to sign soon and uncertainty about the policies the two presidential contenders will follow could combine to hasten the flight of foreign money out of the dollar, economists say.

"With the US election only four months away, Mr Baker's departure should not produce any major policy changes," says David Hale, chief economist at Kemper Financial Services Inc.

"The danger is that his successor will lack Mr Baker's finesse at fine-tuning policy pronouncements to soothe the financial

markets," he wrote in a recent letter to clients.

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Responsible

Baker might be held partly responsible for the October 1987 stock market crash because of his decision to attack West Germany publicly for raising interest rates.

But he will also share the credit for having forced other nations to pursue economic policies expansionary enough to contain



Nicholas Brady

the Third World debt crisis and produce a significant improvement in the US trade balance.

On the economic front, experts said there was virtually no chance that Brady would have to grapple with a recession in the months ahead.

Although the unemployment rate edged up in July to 5.4 per cent from June's 14-year low of

5.3 per cent, economists said Friday's jobs report showed the economy continued to grow at a rapid pace.

Indeed, in contrast to the beginning of the year when fears of a post-crash recession lingered, the main worry now is that the economy may overheat and rekindle inflation.

By dangling the reward of new loans from commercial banks and the World Bank, Baker hoped to cajole major debtors into implementing the same kind of free-market economic policies that President Reagan championed.

The plan has worked well with Chile and Uruguay and is beginning to pay off in Mexico.

But many other countries, notably Brazil and Argentina, are no better off now than they were when the debt crisis erupted in 1982.

Indeed, Argentina once more faces a deadline for meeting bank interest payments, and the Treasury had to come up on Thursday with another pledge of short-term financial support to tide Buenos Aires over until it receives more permanent financing from the World Bank.

World Business Summary

Iraq to privatise 47 state-run factories

BAGHDAD. Aug 6. (Reuter): The Iraqi government is to sell off 47 state-run factories across the country in a drive to boost private industry, a Baghdad newspaper reported today. The English-language *Baghdad Observer* said Hussein Kamel, newly-appointed Minister of Industry and Military Industrialisation, announced the decision at a recent meeting with a group of businessmen.

"The sale of factories to the private sector is designed to give a wider role for this sector in pushing forward Iraq's economic development," Kamel was quoted as saying. He said that if private business were not interested in buying the factories, the government would form them into co-operatives with shares initially sold to employees. The paper gave no details of the factories but business sources said they mostly made textile, plastic and aluminium products. Kamel said the Military Industries Commission, which he also heads, had prepared a large fleet of heavy trucks for private sale to companies or individuals. "The objective is to facilitate the export of Iraqi goods, commodities and raw materials to Arab and foreign markets," Kamel said.

"The fleet will hopefully undertake to transport Iraqi imports which currently cost the country large sums in hard currency," he added. The Military Industries Commission runs a high-technology network making heavy equipment for military and civilian use — including Iran's Al-Hussain missile which it used to bombard Iran during the war of the cities which halted in April.

Kamel said the importers would be allowed to pay 60 per cent of the cost of imported machinery to foreign suppliers in hard currency, instead of the present 50 per cent. This was to encourage investment in the private sector. He called on Iraqi businessmen to explore new areas of enterprise with an emphasis on making components essential for existing national industries.

Kim calls for counter-action against American trade bill

SEOUL. South Korea, Aug 6. (AP): Opposition leader Kim Young-Sam called today for action to counter the effects of a sweeping US trade bill branded as protectionist by South Korean officials. In a news conference, Kim demanded an immediate National Assembly session to work out "positive" measures to protect South Korea from possible US trade retaliation arising from the trade bill passed by the US Senate on Wednesday. Kim, who heads South Korea's second largest opposition party, urged other political parties to join hands in dealing with the trade bill that would clear the way for the US government to retaliate against foreign countries who allegedly conduct unfair trade practices. President Ronald Reagan has indicated he will approve the bill, passed by the Senate last Wednesday.

President Roh Tae-Woo's Democratic Justice Party and other opposition parties immediately accepted Kim's call. South Korean government officials are concerned that if enacted, the trade bill would seriously hurt South Korean exports to US markets, accounting for 40 per cent of its total exports. The US trade bill caused South Korea to work out a flurry of steps aimed at avoiding US trade pressure, ranging from more imports of US goods to the more rapid appreciation of the South Korean currency against the US dollar.

Japan to grant new credits for Iraqi development projects

BAGHDAD. Aug 6. (Reuter): Japan will grant new credits to Iraq to finance major development projects and give Baghdad more time to repay existing loans under agreements signed today, an Asian diplomat said. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Trade Minister Mohammed Mahdi Saleh and Japanese Ambassador Taizo Nakamura signed letters on the extension of banking facilities to finance the projects. It gave no further details and Japanese embassy officials were not available for comment. The diplomat said the signing was an important move to resolve problems over the payment of credits worth hundreds of million dollars. He said Iraq, whose foreign currency reserves have been drained by the eight-year war with Iran, would now be able to defer repayments and get new credits. Japanese firms are building motorways, power stations, dams, petrochemical plants, airports and other projects in Iraq. Some firms have already agreed to accept payment in the form of Iraqi oil while others have agreed to rescheduling. A high-level Japanese delegation is due in Baghdad on Monday to discuss relations in trade and other areas, a Japanese embassy official said. It will also discuss efforts to arrange a ceasefire in the Gulf war. Japan imports most of its oil from Iraq and Iran and has invested billions of dollars in developments in both countries.

UAE banker wants to strengthen economic ties with Soviets

MOSCOW, Aug 6. (Reuter): One of the United Arab Emirates' (UAE) biggest banks is prepared to finance joint ventures with Soviet partners and consider fresh credits for Soviet banks, its chairman said in an interview published today. Suroor Bin Sultan Al Dhaheri, chairman of the Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, told the official news agency Tass during a visit here that the bank was studying further financial and commercial co-operation with the Soviet Union. "The Abu Dhabi bank is prepared to finance the creation of joint ventures of Soviet and foreign partners," Al Dhaheri said. Following the success of a \$50 million credit granted to the Soviet Union in April the bank would be prepared to consider further such requests from Soviet banks, he added. "The Soviet Union enjoys the reputation of a reliable borrower," he added. Al Dhaheri proposed the creation of a direct air link between Abu Dhabi and Samarkand, a major Muslim cultural centre in Soviet Central Asia as a means of boosting tourism between the two countries. Al Dhaheri's visit, at the invitation of the Foreign Trade Bank of the USSR, comes amid signs of improving political relations between the Soviet Union and Gulf states. On Monday, Qatar became the fourth Gulf state to open diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. UAE has had such ties since 1985.

Belgrade lifts price controls

BELGRADE, Aug 6. (AP): The Yugoslav government yesterday lifted price controls for numerous goods and services, including energy and transport. The widespread lifting of price controls at a time when inflation boomed at about 180 per cent included gasoline, diesel fuel, electricity, cooking gas, coal, rail transport and postal services. The measure means that prices for those items, strictly controlled by the state for most of the post World War II period, would now be set by their producers, the state-run press reported.

Manufacturers of cooking oil, flour and bread also were allowed price increases, but the staples would still be under government control, the reports said. The government measure has already hit Yugoslavia with a 39 per cent increase in the price of electricity, an average 55 per cent price hike for rail transport and a 66 per cent raise in cooking oil prices. Other producers, including those of fuel and bread, have yet to announce their new prices, according to press reports. Workers have staged several protest marches in Yugoslavia following the introduction in May of a government programme that allowed substantial price hikes and hefty wage cuts. The May measure lifted price controls for about 60 per cent of goods and services that had been frozen since November.

The steps are designed to eventually curb the country's inflation and help repay Yugoslavia's \$21-billion foreign debt by introducing a more market-oriented economy. The government, together with the International Monetary Fund, which helped design the programme, set a target for Yugoslav inflation to drop to 95 per cent by the end of 1988.

Sharp drop in world grain supplies forecast in new study

UNITED NATIONS. Aug 6. (Reuter): The world's stockpile of grain will drop sharply there is likely to be less food available at the end of this year than at almost any other time this century, a private institute predicted today.

"The only time this century the world has faced such a tight food situation was in 1972," said Lester Brown, president of Worldwatch, a private body funded in part by the United Nations — in the latest issue of its institute's magazine.

Grain stocks at the end of this year could fall to 54 days of world consumption — below a 57-day level in 1973 that more than doubled grain prices.

Fall

The fall is the steepest ever recorded and follows a searing drought in the United States, Canada and China.

Brown said drought would reduce the 1988 North American grain harvest by about a quarter, or some 84 million tons, from last year.

"In China, which ranks a close second to the United States as a food producer, severe drought conditions could easily reduce the harvest by one-eighth, or 30 million tons."

But India's harvest could rise by 24 million tons, the Soviet Union's by more than four million tons and Europe's (East and West) by as much as 17 million tons, Brown said.

Coastal Corp., China National Chemicals to form joint venture

HOUSTON, Texas, Aug 6. (AP): Officials of the Coastal Corp. and China National Chemicals Import-Export Corp. (Sinochem) announced plans on Wednesday to form a joint venture to ownership and operation of Coastal's US West Coast refining and marketing properties.

"We are enthusiastic about this new joint venture which will strengthen the tradition of excellent relations between our companies and Sinochem, started in 1978 when Coastal became the first American company to purchase and import crude from People's Republic of China," said Oscar S. Wyatt Jr., Coastal's chairman and chief executive officer.

An agreement, signed on Tuesday, provides for Sinochem to acquire for an undisclosed amount of cash a 30 per cent interest in the joint-venture company.

West Coast operations to be assigned to the joint venture include refinery, fuel oil terminals and marketing operations.

The memorandum of understanding includes plans for expenditures to upgrade a refinery for expanded production. A crude oil supply agreement also will be negotiated between Sinochem and the joint venture company.

"We are pleased with this opportunity to expand our fine business relationship with Coastal through our investment and participation in this new joint-venture company," said Zheng Dunxun, chief executive officer and president of Sinochem.

Dow Jones drifts down

'Number numbness' afflicts Wall Street

explanation. It's an international market these days, and the orders aren't coming in from London or Tokyo, just as they are from Manhattan.

Pressure

The idea that everybody is on vacation doesn't wash the way it used to, either. Money managers at the large institutions that dominate the modern marketplace are under just as much pressure to produce results in the third quarter of the year as they are in the first, second and fourth.

Jay Donnaraum, an analyst at First Albany Corp. in Albany, New York, has an alternative explanation: "It's called 'number numbness,'" he says.

"Each week there is some government number to be released that causes the markets to go catatonic before its release, and paralyzes the markets afterward while the 'experts' analyse it."

"As a result, no one wants to get caught by the number — trade deficit, consumer price index, producer price index, gross national product — so millions of folks do nothing simultaneously."

Against this background, the Dow Jones industrial average drifted down 9.60 points to 2,119.13 in the past week.

New Yorkers, at least, are inclined to put the situation down to the stifling heat and the traditional "summer doldrums" that set in on Wall Street in August.

Whatever happened to the volatility everybody was so worried about?

New Yorkers, at least, are inclined to put the situation down to the stifling heat and the traditional "summer doldrums" that set in on Wall Street in August.

He said wind was another little-used energy source in which Syria was rich. A minimum wind speed of three metres per second (MPS) is needed for practical use.

Meteorologists say winds of four MPS blow across Syria at least half the year. In central regions around the city of Homs, they average six MPS for 40 per cent of the time.

The government encourages local production of wind energy equipment which many farmers already use to pump water for drinking or irrigation, Kordab said.

A study he made for the United Nations revealed that gas produced biologically was a promising energy source for Syria.

The study showed 126 million cubic metres (165 cu yds) of gas could be produced annually, 40 per cent of it from animal waste and 30 per cent each from poultry and from domestic waste.

Homes and businesses used 35 percent of the 7,000 million kWhr of electricity Syria generated in 1986. Industry used 40 per cent. Syria used 265,000 tonnes of butane in 1986.

Other studies would look at ways to use solar power for crop drying, heating greenhouses, desalination and generating electricity, Kordab said.

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Alshall stock price indices

Kuwait share prices retreat

ALSHALL Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 44.21 points with a decrease of 2.01 points from last week's average. Alshall Index for Gulf shareholding companies reached 49.80 points with a decrease of 0.50 point for the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 98.17 million shares at a daily average of 19.63 million shares with a decrease of 38.4 per cent from the previous week's daily average of 31.86 million shares. (One day of trading only) Gulf traded shares reached 34.74 million shares at a daily average of 6.95 million shares with a decrease of 25 per cent from last week's daily average of 9.28 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD39.98 million at a daily average of KD7.82 million, a decrease of 43 per cent from last week's daily average of KD31.85 million. The value of Gulf traded shares was KD3.484 million at a daily average of KD6.97 million a decrease of 5.5 per cent from last week's daily average of KD0.738 million.

The market performance showed some retreating from the very active level reached during the second half of the week when Iran accepted United Nations Resolution 598 and the following Wednesday which was the only trading day in the long holiday week.

This retreating was shown on the three indices for both markets, and attributed to the nature of market participants and their very short-term trading approach.

The banking sector lead the Kuwait market at 71 per cent of total trading. The Commercial Bank ranked first in this sector at 21.4 per cent, followed by Burgan Bank at 19.4 per cent and the Gulf Bank at 17.5 per cent.

The Services Sector came second at 11.8 per cent, of which Kuwait Commercial Markets Co. had the lead at 64 per cent, followed by Mobile Telephone Systems at 15.6 per cent and Public Warehousing Co. at 15 per cent.

Third came the Real Estate Sector at 7.9 per cent of total trading volume, with United Realty in the lead at 62 per cent, followed by Kuwait Real Estate at 17.5 per cent and Kuwait Project Co. at 10 per cent.

As for the Gulf shares market, the Financial Sector resumed its lead at 90 per cent of total traded shares, with Coast Investment and Development Company at the lead with 63 per cent of the total Gulf shares, followed by Ras Al Khaima White Cement at 5 per cent and Fujairah Cement at 4 per cent.

In spite of our belief that a settlement for the Gulf war will be generally positive, we anticipate continuous increase in share prices only in the short-term.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

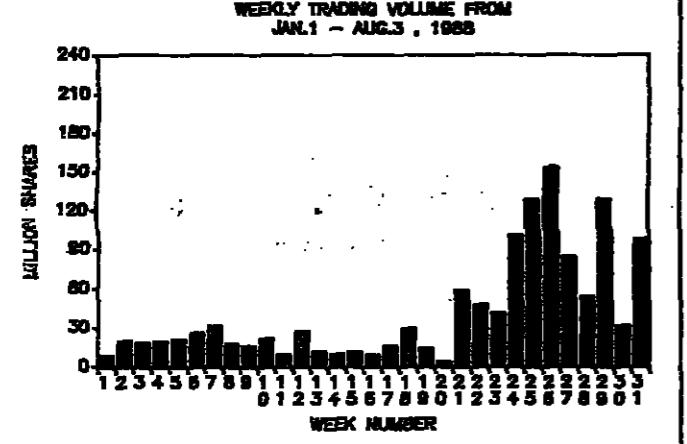
Wednesday Wednesday Change

03/08/88 27/07/88 points

Banking Sector			
Kuwait National Bank	111.60	115.66	-4.06
The Gulf Bank	36.05	38.95	-2.90
The Commercial Bank	28.31	30.92	-2.61
Al Ahli Bank	39.41	42.77	-3.36
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	35.08	37.71	-2.63
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	36.11	38.10	-1.98
Burgan Bank	32.21	34.69	-2.48
Kuwait Finance House	80.12	83.15	-3.02
Sector Index	50.58	53.54	-2.97

Investment Sector

KUWAITI SHAREHOLDING COMPANIES WEEKLY TRADING VOLUME FROM JAN.1 - AUG.3 , 1988



Kuwait Investment Co.		33.42	34.89	-1.47
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.		29.55	31.27	-1.72
Iav. Pearl Kuwait		88.89	92.06	-3.17
IFA		75.00	80.88	-5.88
Commercial Facilities		122.50	122.50	—
Sector Index		43.32	45.15	-1.83

Insurance Sector		40.77	40.77	—
Kuwait Insurance Co.		27.69	26.92	0.77
Gulf Insurance Co.		52.16	52.16	—
Al Ahlia Insurance Co.		79.04	80.76	-1.72
Sector Index		41.26	41.15	0.11

Real Estate Sector		30.33	31.10	-0.76
Kuwait Real Estate		12.73	12.96	-0.22
National Real Estate		43.00	43.80	-0.80
Sector Index		22.31	22.77	-0.46

Industrial Sector		17.38	17.38	—
Kuwait Cement Co.		90.04	88.94	1.10
Refrigeration Indust.		110.04	110.04	—
Gulf Cables		100.45	105.78	-5.33
Sector Index		36.32	36.50	-0.18

Services Sector		200.88	207.36	-6.48
Kuwait Computer Co.		9.04	9.04	—
Public Warehousing Co.		89.90	95.96	-6.06
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.		40.95	41.95	-1.00
Mobile Telephone Syst.		390.48	414.29	-23.81
Sector Index		71.51	75.43	-3.91

Food Sector		46.79	47.60	-0.81
Livestock Trad. & Transp.		10.91	10.91	—
United Fisheries		85.81	85.81	—
Kuwait Ualited Poultry		71.26	74.71	-3.45
Kuwait Food Co.		42.88	43.78	-0.90
Sector Index		44.21	45.22	-2.01

Gulf shareholding companies index

Wednesday Wednesday Change

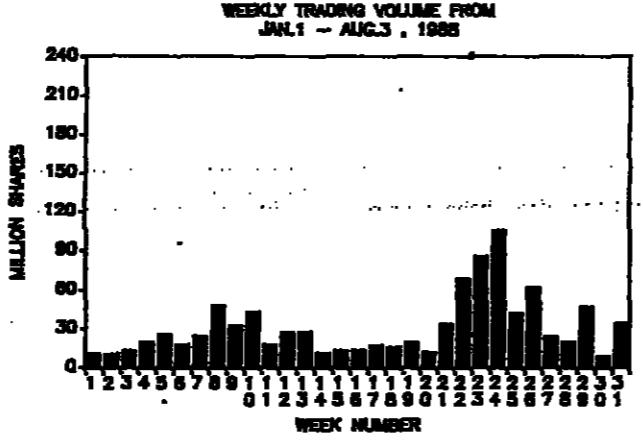
03/08/88 27/07/88 points

Financial Companies		163.16	163.16	—
First Gulf Bank		34.48	34.48	—
United Gulf Bank		93.79	96.55	-2.76
Bahrain Internat. Bank		89.22	87.32	1.90
Gulf Investments Co.		61.03	61.03	—
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.		110.48	112.38	-1.90
Bahrain Kuwait Inv. Gro.		61.85	61.85	—
Arabian Gen. Inv. (SHUAA)		54.55	56.06	-1.52
Sector Index		65.63	66.16	-0.53

Other Companies		13.68	13.68	—
Gulf Cement (fully paid)		10.50	10.50	—
Sharjah Cement		11.84	11.84	—
Fujairah Cement		26.11	27.78	-1.67
Ras Al Khaima W. Cement		29.80	29.80	—
Gulf Medical Projects		16.62	17.05	-0.43
Sector Index		49.80	50.30	-0.50

Base Period 31/12/1983.

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Despite the rise in jobless rate

US economy still has 'a lot of forward momentum'

NEW YORK, Aug. 6. (UPI): Employment figures released this week showed "forward momentum" in the economy, the biggest bank in Texas reopened under a new name after being declared insolvent and Hertz admitted it bilked insurance companies by inflating auto repair costs.

Unemployment rose to 5.4 per cent in July, an increase of one-tenth of a percentage point, the Labour Department said.

The nation's major retailers reported sluggish sales and only modest gains for July, a month traditionally used to clear out spring merchandise to make room for back-to-school items.

Gains

The top three retailers — Sears Roebuck and Co., K Mart Corp. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. — posted sales gains. But comparable store sales, excluding sales of stores opened less than a year ago, increased either marginally or were flat, analysts said.

"On balance these sales have returned to the lackluster sluggish pattern we saw in the beginning of the year. This trend is not that significant because July is a cleanup month," said Jeffrey Edelman, a retail analyst at Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc.

In Texas, 40 branches of the insolvent First Republic Bank reopened across the state with a new name and a "sky's the limit" outlook for the future just days after federal regulators declared the bank insolvent.

"I think it shows that the economy still has a lot of forward momentum," Robertson said. "The gains in manufacturing are particularly impressive."

He echoed the views of many economists who are concerned about inflation, however.

The nation's major retailers reported sluggish sales and only modest gains for July, a month traditionally used to clear out spring merchandise to make room for back-to-school items.

Growth

Also, there was vigorous employment growth in the manufacturing portion of the economy. Some 70,000 new factory jobs were added for a total of 19.6 million.

Overall, the unemployment rate has declined six-tenths of a

percentage point since July 1987, the Labour Department noted.

Norman Robertson, chief economist for Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, called the latest figures "impressive" and "remarkable."

First Republicbank, Texas' largest bank holding company, was declared insolvent by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and

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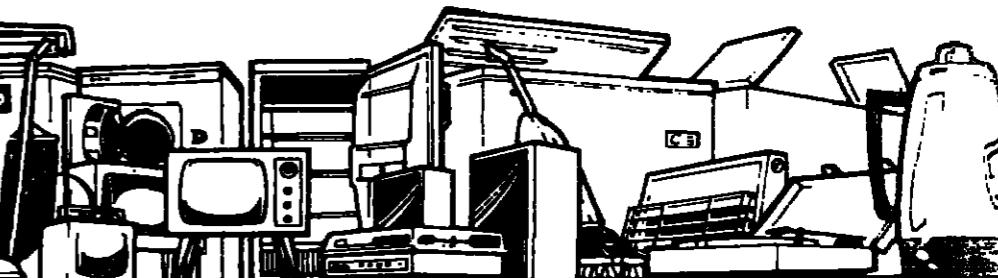
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SPORTS

Graham beats Bonder-Kreis for semifinals

SAN DIEGO, Calif., Aug. 6, (UPI): American teenager Debbie Graham, ranked 315th in the world, reached the semifinals of the \$100,000 San Diego women's tennis tournament with a 1-6-2-3 win over compatriot Lisa Bonder-Kreis yesterday.

Graham, a 17-year-old qualifier, was to meet fellow-American Stephanie Rehe, the second seed, in this evening's semifinals.

"I'm still in shock about winning the first round," Graham said. "I just wanted to turn in a good showing and win a few games."

Bonder-Kreis, 22, who was ninth in the world four years ago, has had a disappointing year, dropping eight first-round matches in 12 tournaments.

Married

"My tennis isn't focused now. I used to be after a loss like this. I'd get emotional and depressed for days," she said. "But I've got other things going on in my life."

"I've just been married for eight months and I'm pregnant with the baby due in February," said Bonder-Kreis, who is currently ranked 90.

Graham changed tactics after the first set and began rushing the net.

"She was directing play during the first set," said Graham. "I changed my game though, in the next set by coming to the net more and using my drop shot to counter what she was doing."

Bonder-Kreis said: "It was sheer stupidity on my part. I was being hopeful she'd make errors. She tried to boss me off the court and did."

Gardner holds on to British GP pole spot

DONINGTON PARK, England, Aug. 6, (Reuter): World champion Wayne Gardner of Australia was slightly injured today after crashing in practice for the British Grand Prix 500cc motorcycle race at Donington Park tomorrow.

Ironically Gardner came off his Honda at one of the slowest bends on the twisting 4.02-km circuit.

After a visit to the medical centre, Gardner emerged smiling and unbruised. "There's no problem. I've just banged my seat a bit," he said.

After three of the four qualifying sessions, Gardner still held provisional pole position by virtue of his lap record time of one minute 35.09 seconds — average 152.30 kph — set in the first session yesterday.

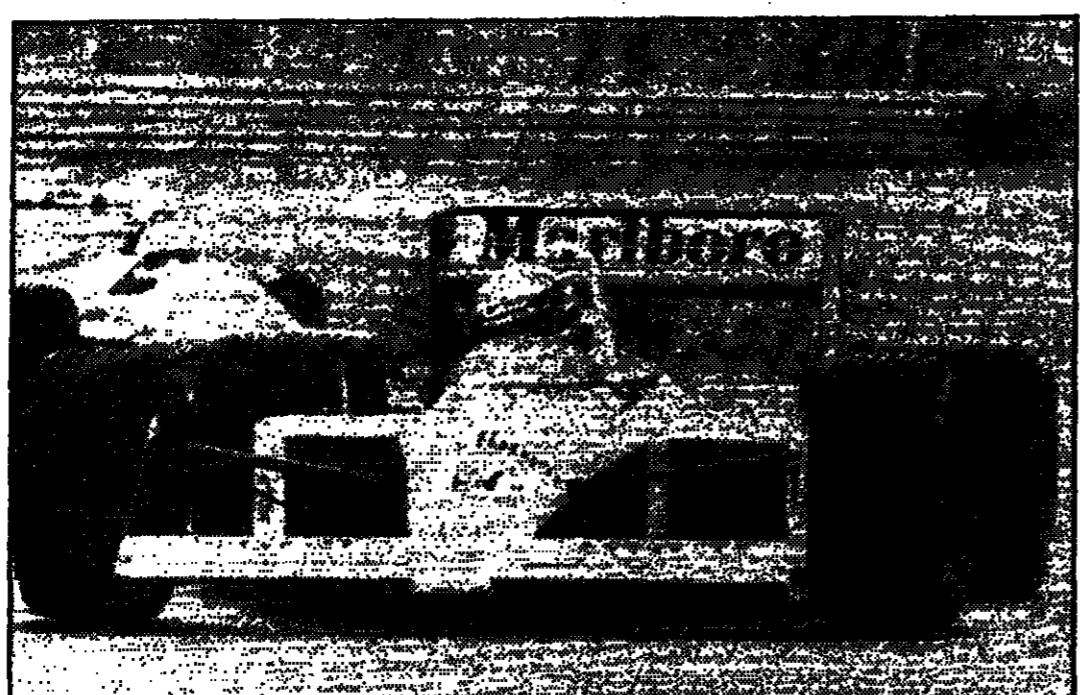
His big rival Eddie Lawson, the American Yamaha rider who leads Gardner by 27 points in the world championship, was fastest in the third session, improving his best time to 1:35.72.

Leading times:

1. Wayne Gardner (Australia) Honda one minute 35.09 seconds (94.64 mph); 2. Eddie Lawson (US) Yamaha 1:35.64; 3. Christian Sarron (France) Yamaha 1:35.72; 4. Wayne Rainey (US) Honda 1:36.17; 5. Steve McLaughlin (Britain) Honda 1:36.21; 6. Didier de Radigues (Belgium) Yamaha 1:36.52; 7. Randy Mamola (US) Cagiva 1:36.56; 8. Ron Haslam (Britain) Honda 1:37.18; 9. Tadashi Taira (Japan) Yamaha 1:37.30; 10. Steve Magee (Australia) Yamaha 1:37.34; 11. Rob McElrea (Britain) Suzuki 1:37.43.
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Normally-aspirated cars dominate final practice

Senna spares McLaren team's blushes



Senna clinches eighth pole position of season

clocked a time quicker than last year's qualifying record set by the Briton.

Boutsen will share the second row of the grid with Italian Ivan Capelli's March.

Alessandro Nannini in the second Benetton was fifth fastest and fellow-Italian Riccardo Patrese in the second Williams was sixth, keeping Prost out of the front three rows for the first time this year.

Senna's pole position was his

eighth of the season, 24th of his career and his second in the three years of the Hungarian Grand Prix.

Senna, who is only three points behind Prost in their private duel for the drivers' championship, predicted a tough race in the heat forecast for tomorrow.

"I think it will be a very tough race physically for the drivers, particularly because it will last for two hours and be driven in hot weather," he said.

The Ferraris endured a poor afternoon which, at one stage, saw both Berger and Italian Michele Alboreto trading furiously back towards the pits after abandoning their cars. Berger, third in the world championship, managed to qualify ninth on the grid but Alboreto was back in 15th place.

World champion Nelson Piquet of Brazil, seeking a hat-trick of Hungarian wins, could not better 13th place in his Lotus.

Qualifying times for tomorrow's Hungarian Grand Prix motor race after today's final official practice session:

1. Ayrton Senna (Brazil) McLaren one minute 27.635 seconds (average speed 164.893 kph); 2. Nigel Mansell (Britain) Williams 1:27.743; 3. Thierry Boutsen (Belgium) Benetton 1:27.970; 4. Ivan Capelli (Italy) March 1:28.350; 5. Alessandro Nannini (Italy) Benetton 1:28.393; 6. Riccardo Patrese (Italy) Williams 1:28.569; 7. Alan Prost (France) McLaren 1:28.778; 8. Mauricio Gugelmin (Brazil) March 1:29.099; 9. Gerhard Berger (Austria) Ferrari 1:29.244; 10. Alex Caffi (Italy) Dallas 1:29.691; 11. Luis Perez-Sala (Spain) Minardi 1:30.103; 12. Derek Warwick (Britain) Arrows 1:30.185; 13. Nelson Piquet (Brazil) Lotus 1:30.405; 14. Eddie Cheever (US) Arrows 1:30.445; 15. Michele Alboreto (Italy) Ferrari 1:31.016; 16. Piercarlo Minardi (Italy) Minardi 1:31.123; 17. Yamal-Dalmas (France) Lola 1:31.200; 18. Andrei de Cesari (Italy) Rial 1:31.523; 19. Satoru Nakajima (Japan) Lotus 1:31.646; 20. Philippe Alliot (France) Lola 1:31.719; 21. Jonathan Palmer (Britain) Tyrrell 1:31.741; 22. Gabriele Tarquini (Italy) Coloni 1:32.160; 23. Philippe Streiff (France) AGS 1:32.265; 24. Stefan Johansson (Sweden) Ligier 1:32.343; 25. René Arnoux (France) Ligier 1:32.477; 26. Stefano Modena (Italy) Eurobrun 1:32.614.

Did not qualify:

27. Oscar Larrauri (Argentina) Eurobrun 1:32.967; 28. Bernd Schneider (West Germany) Zakspeed 1:33.357; 29. Julian Beiley (Britain) Tyrrell 1:33.694; 30. Piercarlo Ghinzani (Italy) Zakspeed 1:34.701.

Fung retires

TORONTO, Aug. 6, (Reuter): Canadian Lori Fung, the first Olympic singles gold medalist in rhythmic gymnastics at the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, retired from the sport yesterday, after a year of injury and illness.

Fung, 25, was diagnosed last week as having tendinitis in the arches of both feet. She has also suffered since May from Epstein Barr syndrome, a strength-sapping virus related to mononucleosis.

"I've had a good year but I've had a bad time," said Fung, who won the Four Continents Tournament in June.

Three-way tie for lead in Jude Classic

CORDOVA, Tenn., Aug. 6, (Reuter): Americans Jodie Mudd, Peter Jacobsen and Tim Simpson each birdied their final hole to post scores of four-under-par 68 and share the lead after two rounds of the St Jude Classic golf tournament yesterday.

The three were knotted at eight-under-par 136 following 36 holes over the demanding Colonial Country Club layout that measures almost 7,300 yards.

One shot behind the leaders were first-round co-leader Ed Fiori and Nick Price of Britain, who shot a tournament-low of 64 with nine birdies in the hot and muggy weather.

Simpson and Mudd said later that they liked their chances.

"I'm on a roll right now and am hitting the ball fantastic. I'm confident heading into the weekend," said Simpson.

Mudd countered: "I'm real confident and I'm going to be aggressive and see what happens."

Jacobsen, who led both the Western Open and the Busch Classic heading into the final round, was more philosophical.

Coasting

"Those tournaments proved to me that the tournament is not over 'til it's over and that there is no coasting out there," he said.

Price, playing in his first tournament since finishing second at the British Open, rebounded from an opening 73.

"I was disappointed with my round on Thursday and came out this morning and strengthened my grip. Suddenly I shoot eight under," said Price. "I was a bit concerned about making the cut when I three-putted my second hole on the day but then I started shooting a good solid round."

Three golfers stood two shots off the pace including Americans Larry Mize and Tommy Armour III and South African Fulton Allem. Armour and Allem each shot 69 while Mize jumped back into contention with a 68.

Defending champion Curtis Strange shot a 71 and was four under par after two rounds.

Morgan's magic fails to save Red Sox from rampaging Tigers

NEW YORK, Aug. 6, (AP): The Boston Red Sox may have "Morgan's magic," but they should always remember the motorcity.

Boston managed just 10 hits in last night's doubleheader at Detroit, losing 3-1 and 3-2 to fall three games behind the first-place Tigers in the American League East.

"Even though we haven't been hitting, we play good defense and find a way to hurt you," said Detroit's Jack Morris, the winning pitcher in the first game. "I compare us with the Baltimore clubs of the early 1980's. As long as we win, that's all we care about."

The Red Sox have dropped three straight, their longest losing streak under manager Joe Morgan, who took over for John McNamara after the All-Star break. Boston is 19-4 under Morgan.

Complete

Elsewhere, Minnesota swept a doubleheader from New York, 7-5 and 11-2. Baltimore beat Milwaukee 4-1 in the first game of a doubleheader and Milwaukee came back to win the nightcap 3-1. In other games, it was Toronto 7, Kansas City 6, Texas 8, Cleveland 4, and Oakland 4, Seattle 1.

Frank Viola became the Major Leagues' first 17-game winner and helped Minnesota complete a doubleheader sweep after Gene Larkin's three-run homer led the Twins in the opener. The losses dropped the third-place Yankees four games behind the Tigers.

Greg Brock drove in two runs and relievers Juan Nieves and Dan Plesac allowed no hits in four innings to give Milwaukee a split in its doubleheader with Baltimore.

In the first game, Jose Bautista pitched a six-hitter and Jim Traber hit a tie-breaking single in the sixth inning.

Against the Royals, Toronto's George Bell drove in three runs with two doubles and reliever Duane Ward allowed no hits in 4-3 innings to lead Toronto.

Ward, 7-1, who replaced Jimmy Key in the fourth, walked two and struck out five. Tom Henke worked the ninth to earn his 20th save.

Yugoslav soccer season starts amid 'mafia' threats

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Aug. 6, (AP): Yugoslavia's 1988-89 soccer championship started today amid a results-fixing controversy and reports of 'mafia' threats against leading soccer officials who said they will quit.

The decision, reached by a secret vote, relegated Sutjeska into the Second Division.

The federation said there was no material evidence to prove that the Celic vs. Prishtina match was in fact rigged.

"We have been under tremendous pressure during the last couple of days by a soccer mafia, which is threatening to kill us," federation official Milorad Perovic was quoted as saying by the sport newspaper.

"I, together with a number of other officials, have decided to resign from the body since the lives of our families are also endangered," he said.

The newspaper also said that several "threatening letters" have been received by the federation, some of which were "written in the famous Italian mafioso style."

Two years ago, the soccer federation punished 12 of the League's 18 clubs for allegedly rigging results in the last round of the 1985-86 season.



● Real Madrid's Bernd Schuster kicks the ball with such force that he loses his shoe in the process. Real were playing Antwerp in the A.D. tournament in Rotterdam on Friday evening. (Reuter wirephoto)

SPORTS

ENGLAND ALL OUT FOR 202 IN 2ND INNINGS

West Indies set to win fifth Test

LONDON, Aug 6. (Reuter): West Indies were on course to complete a 4-0 series triumph despite a defiant seven-hour innings of 84 by England captain Graham Gooch in the fifth and final cricket Test at the Oval today.

When opener Gooch was last out with England having made 202 in their second innings, West Indies faced a victory target of 225 — the highest total of the match — with 24 overs left in the final session and two days to follow tomorrow's test day.

Good

Gordon Greenidge batted powerfully and authoritatively in an unbeaten 53 as West Indies made 71 without loss by the close on what remained an essentially good pitch.

The final phase was played out with Derek Pringle leading England after Gooch dislocated a finger on his left hand trying unsuccessfully to catch Desmond Haynes from a no-ball by Phillip Defreitas in the second over of the innings.

That incident apart, the long-standing Greenidge-Haynes first wicket partnership had few problems as they provided an



Gooch: scored 84

ideal platform for West Indies to complete a victory that would follow their emphatic wins in the previous three Tests.

Viv Richards' team, whose first innings deficit of 22 was their

Winston Benjamin bowled unchanged in the two-hour morning session and sent back Neil Foster (34) and Matthew Maynard (10), while fellow paceman Courtney Walsh accounted for David Capel (12) and Jack Richards (3).

Off-spinner Roger Harper snapped up two for nine — Pringle (8) and Defreitas (0) — but it was Gooch who held England together throughout in a display of immense concentration and application. He batted 423 minutes in total, hitting one six and eight fours, before finally falling to fast bowler Curtly Ambrose.

Gooch's long vigil ended when he square-drove a ball from Ambrose and was caught by Greenidge, fielding halfway to the square cover boundary.

Greenidge was soon back in the action to launch West Indies' thrust for victory in commanding style. He cut, drove and hooked with typical ferocity while fellow Barbadian Haynes proved the ideal foil in a much more subdued role.

The pair completed their half-century stand in 19 overs and were contained only by a nine-over spell costing 11 runs from left-arm spinner Childs. But

Greenidge ended with a flourish by reaching his 50, having struck nine fours.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings 205 (R. Smith 57, R. Bailey 43, C. Ambrose three for 31, R. Harper three for 50).

WEST INDIES first innings 183 (J. Dujon 64, G. Logie 47, N. Foster five for 64, D. Pringle three for 45).

ENGLAND second innings (over-night 64 for three)

G. Gooch c Greenidge b Ambrose 84
T. Childs lbw b Marshall 15

R. Bailey c Benjamin 5

S. Walsh lbw b Benjamin 0

N. Foster c Logie b Benjamin 34

M. Maynard c and b Benjamin 10

D. Capel lbw b Walsh 12

J. Richards c Dujon b Walsh 3

D. Pringle c Harper 8

P. Defreitas c Haynes b Harper 0

J. Childs not out 0

Extras (b-3 lb-15 nb-15) 33

Total 202

Fall of wickets 1-50 2-55 3-55 4-

108 5-125 6-139 7-157 8-175 9-177.

Bowling: Marshall 25-6-52-1,

Ambrose 24-1-10-3-1, Benjamin 22-

24-2-4, Walsh 12-5-21-2, Harper 6-3-

9-2.

WEST INDIES second innings

G. Greenidge not out 53

D. Haynes 15

Extras (nb-3) 71 — close

Bowling to date Foster 5-1-22-0,

Defreitas 6-0-21-0, Child 9-5-11-0,

Pringle 4-0-17-0.

Prichard: unbeaten 44



Topley: five for 38

Topley keeps Essex in chase for crown

LONDON, Aug 6. (Reuter): A five-wicket haul by seamer Don Topley steered Essex to a four-wicket win over Northamptonshire and into second place in the County Cricket Championship table yesterday.

Topley claimed five for 38, including a devastating spell of four for 14 in 29 balls, to dismiss the home side for 89 in their second innings, their lowest total of the season.

That left Essex, weakened by the absence of their four England players, requiring 135 to win but they looked in trouble at 73 for five, including losing their Australian captain Allan Border, who scored a century in the first innings, for nought.

However, a solid, unbeaten 44 from Paul Prichard guided Essex to their sixth championship win of the season and took them to 188 points, 27 behind leaders Kent who were held to a draw by Leicestershire at Canterbury.

Kent declared their second innings at 140 for six, leaving Leicestershire a tempting target of 221 to win.

After they had slumped to 73 for three, David Gower with 43 and James Whittaker with 48 added 84 from 17 overs to set up a victory chance.

But then four wickets fell and Leicestershire were content to play out for a draw, ending on 203 for seven.

Somerset captain Peter Roebuck scored a controlled 47 not out, the highest score of the match, to help his team to a five-wicket victory over Surrey at Weston-Super-Mare.

Beginning the third day at 55 for four, Somerset still needed 54 to win and their task was not made any easier when their fifth wicket fell with only 60 on the board.

But Neil Burns joined

Kiseleva edges closer to Idzi

WARSAW, Aug 6. (Reuter): Good shooting by titleholder Irina Kiseleva of the Soviet Union narrowed the overall lead of Poland's Dorota Idzi to just 12 points on the fourth day of the Women's Modern Pentathlon World Championships today.

W. German soccer
BONN, Aug 6. (Reuter): International midfielder Olaf Thon scored five goals to help Bayern Munich trounce Second Division Blau-Weiss Berlin 11-2 in the first round of the West German Soccer Cup today.



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Johnson declares himself fit after 100m tuneup race

OTTAWA, Aug 6. (Reuter): World record holder Ben Johnson pronounced himself fit after ending three months away from competition by running in a 100 metres qualifying heat at the Canadian Athletics Championships.

Johnson, racing for the first time since re-injuring a hamstring last May in Tokyo, said he was completely recovered and well on track for next month's Seoul Olympics.

The muscular Jamaican-born sprinter registered a modest time of 10.38 seconds after easing up over the last 30 metres.

Planning

"I'm a lot faster than last year, the leg is no problem," he said after the race. "I ran at 75 to 80 per cent."

Johnson said he was planning to run all out in the 100 metres final.

"I just need some races to shar-

pen up, there's lots of time before the Olympics," he said.

Johnson, who set the world record of 9.83 seconds at the World Championships in Rome a year ago, has not lost to his American arch-rival Carl Lewis in three years and said he was not concerned about their looming Olympic showdown.

"Carl Lewis is not running as fast as last year when I beat him," said Johnson, dismissing the wind-aided 9.78 seconds run by Lewis at the US Olympic trials last month.

The 26-year-old Canadian champion will be aiming to beat the outspoken Lewis for the sixth straight time when they meet in Seoul.

The verbal battle between the two rivals has been going on for some time.

"After Rome, he (Lewis) said the Seoul Olympics would be his," Johnson said. "We'll see about that."

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